THE TRACK RECORD

THE WESTERN BIGFOOT SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

EDITOR RAY CROWE

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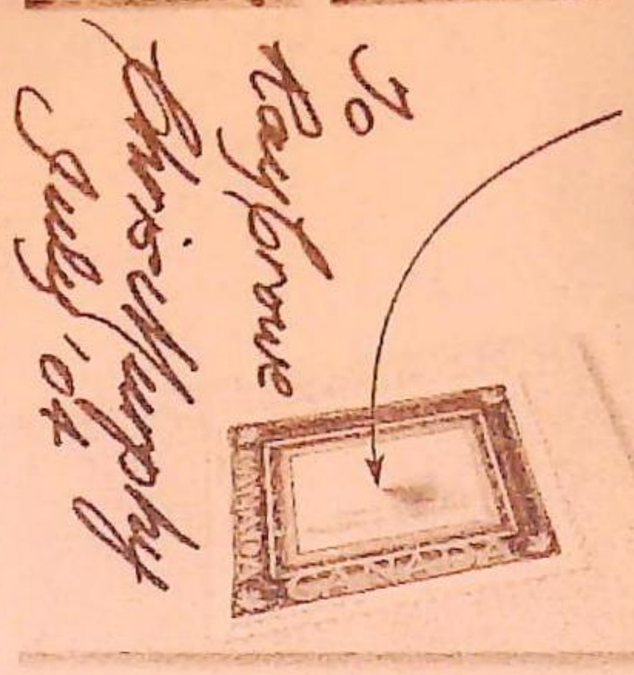
LITTLE BIGFOOT

JULY SUMMARY 2004 #139



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NOTE ON LOCAL NEWS THAT YOU CAN NOW DO THIS IN THE UNITED STATES. DIAL 1-800-ASKUSPS

ITON POTTER Design/Conception Steven Spazuk

The Track Record

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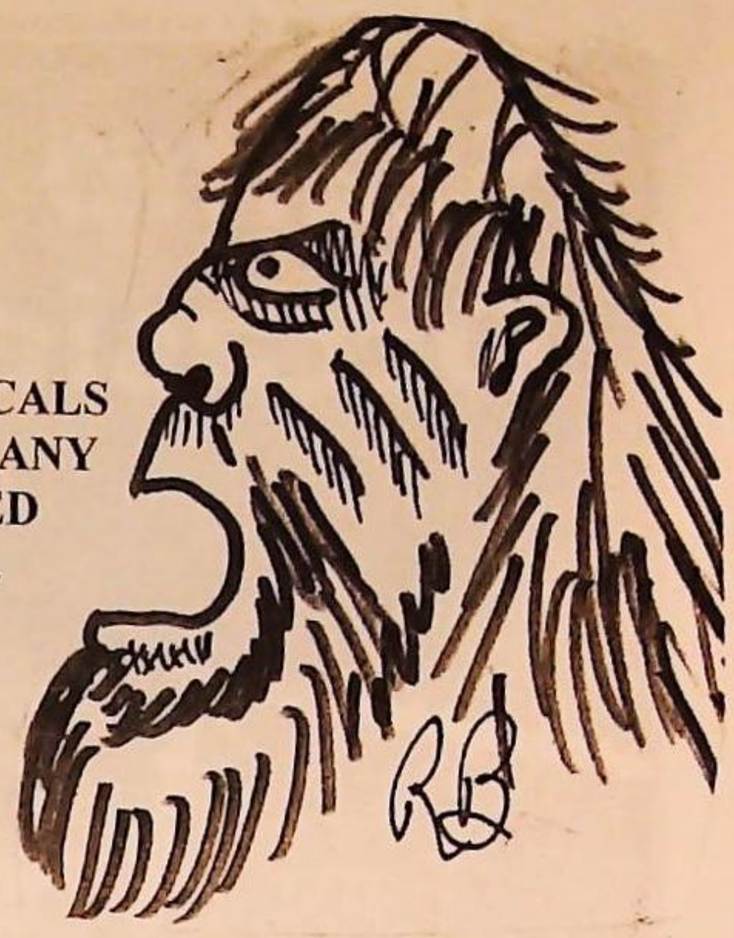
* REMEMBER...WE NEED YOUR CHANGE OF ADDRESS NOW... POST OFFICE THROWS AWAY BULK MAIL. Sorry, I can't replace if lost due to address change. Back order is possible.

MEETING

REGULAR MEETING DATE IS LAST SATURDAY OF MONTH, Dad's Club restaurant is going out of business, so Patti e Dietz informs me. They will have hot dogs, etc, but no meals or late hours. She suggests we have our next indoor meeting in October at the Home Plate, a block closer towards town, and across the street at: 8501 North Lombard.

THIS IS THE ORIGINAL STAMP PHOTO SIGNED BY CHRIS

KEEP YOUR SKEPTICALS ON WHEN READING ANY OF THESE SO-CALLED SIGHTING REPORTS.



MEETING STUFF

There was no regular meeting scheduled for July or August. Hope all are having a good season hunting for Bigfoot evidence.

Those members with computers should note that Webmaster Robert Murdock; robert@digitaledge.com, has been working on a world map that plots sighting reports on our website: InternationalBigfootSociety.com.

Click the Graphical Sightings Database box when visiting the data base...which has quite a few sightings, organized with the pertinent data up-front. The plot shows a world map, that can be clicked anywhere to get a blow up of the region, or there is a drop-down box organized by each state. The solid boxes are sightings, the light boxes are tracks or misc. info.

Have been entering material like climate data...possibly to be used in migration studies; approximate latitude and longitude, elevation, times of sightings, and the base report which has in a sighting, color, size, what creature was doing, of if vocalization, scat, or odor

noted, tracks listed by length only.

Hope to see some interesting studies based on this information, hopefully to be published in future issues of the Track Record.

REPORTS

* Joe Beelart came to visit and brought lunch. He's been busy on the Collawash, SE of Estacadam OR. There was a 16.5 inch footprint on July 1st near the Big Bottom site (45 deg 00'N 121 deg 53' S). A well used path was found, and there were no deer or elk tracks found...only Bigfoot.

Tracks were also found at 44 deg 59'N 121 deg 57' W at 2100 ft; and at 44 deg 56.5'W, at 5080 ft. There was a series of 5 tracks there in 2001, and when visited in 2002 7 tracks were found.

In the past ten days there were some miners near Granite, OR, having Bigfoot problems. They were throwing rocks and beating on the sheet metal of a collapsed building. Todd Neiss has gone to the scene.

* Don Monroe report from Ronda, 7/21

(Ronda) This morning I was looking out of my cabin window up on Medicine Lodge Creek, ID, and out through it I could see these two white very big something's out there about 60 yards away looking back at me.

At first I though I was seeing two large white horses...then it was plain to see that it was long hairy things...one of them was standing upright on its two legs, and the other one was as if it was perched there right along side of it, but more down on its all four feet and standing more like it was broadside to me, but it was the same otherwise.

No, I had not felt intimidated, I was not frightened of them, I do not believe they had any intention to harm me or either were

THE CANADIAN FLYER FOR DESIGNING YOUR OWN POSTAGE STAMP

afraid of me...but my dog...well he is half wolf and chow dog, fearless normally of everything, a big powerful dog, but this time he wouldn't even go outside.

Another time he'd acted and been the same way...once, when we were out for a walk in the mountains near there. All that he would do then and this time was bark...and he seemingly was frightened? Anyway these things finally just walked off up towards Montana...more on their all fours than upright, and they sure were not bears or anything else like that either. Two white black bears...I think not. They had long white hair, probably at least six inches long and heavy over them. I went out to look for tracks, and because of the heavy grass, brush, etc., found nothing. If horses had been there, well there would have been tracks. Well yes, there is a year around spring on my property, and my dog food is constantly gone when I put it out. The dog hardly eats it. But the stuff is gone every time, and I put out a lot of it in a big pile. And it is not the birds getting this either... this was just at the time of about day break. No, I could not make out facial features or eye color. I began at once after that to read your books (Don Monroe's) Yes, I will continue to feed them, and I will certainly also try what you told me to do with the peanut butter, etc. Hey Don, this is exciting. You mean to tell me that I actually live where others have reported them? Well yes, you can come out anytime and have a look around.

(Don Monroe comments) I do plan to follow all of this deposition up, as it is very close to the Zak Cave, and others I am discovering over the area. And as indeed it is the fact that Ronda's ranch house is in close proximity of where we have had considerable unexplainable reports over the past five years or more.

Ronda is a very credible citizen of the Clark County public working population and has every reason to be believed, and has my complete attention to the viable facts of her story.

Medicine Lodge Creek is approximately twenty miles from Dubois, ID. As I related to Ronda this day...these local cowboys have little idea what indeed is drinking from their water tanks along with the cattle. None of these many ranches has even a clue to what nightly leaves "tracks" of suspect on the hard sun baked surfaces or over the hard packed ground, and/ or the winter hard frozen ice.

* Subject: Bigfoot sighting by 53rd parallel near Grand Rapids, Manitoba Canada FROM; Richard Packo, 6/30

There was a sighting of a Bigfoot near the community of Grand Rapids only a few days ago, some American fishermen were driving south when they spotted the Bigfoot crossing the road about 15 miles south of the community. The Bigfoot will certainly hang around the community for about a week as it always has, will keep you up to date on the latest if any.

* Sighting: Jo Smith, NE Portland, Oregon Can you publish: yes Date: 6/1/04 Time: 11:35; On my street in a residential neighborhood of NE Portland (near the Columbia River), while watching TV. Other witnesses: Allen S. and Arica S.

I was sitting down to watch TV after having dinner. I looked outside and saw a tall dark figure in the street and I went to my porch to see better. I got outside and I smelled a bad odor and I saw a hairy beast standing on the street and looking right at me. I get my son Allen and my wife Arica to see it and the got frightened and went into the house to their rooms. I then decided to scare it away then made a lot of weird sounds and scared it away.

It was about 7 ft, black/brown fur, and an ape-ish face, obviously male

* Sighting: Randall M.; Sacramento, California, Can you publish: yes Date: July, 24 2004, 10:30 p.m.

Shasta Lake, Shasta Lake City.; Rocky terrain surrounded by forest.; Witnesses:Melissa and Kelly

While I was swimming in Shasta Lake I noticed something human like crouched on the lake shore about 35 feet away from me. I discarded it as a large white rock because it was motionless. Melissa and I were swimming waiting for Kelly to get in and enjoy the water when suddenly the shape rose and entered the water with a diving posture. Kelly was frightened and got out of the water. Melissa and I waited quietly and patiently for whatever it was to resurface. There was nothing. No sound, no movement, nobody gasping for air. I threw rocks and called out for a reply, and received nothing. The 'creature, animal, entity' was about a mid-sized biped (5-5.5 feet tall with two legs) with a white appearance covering it entirely. Kelly reports seeing it as a white being, possibly covered with whitish hair. The only sound it made was a splash. This occurred last night.

* James H. 10 Jul, Lake Texoma, OK, area, Rock Creek incident

I just reread my journal entry of my mothers Sasquatch sighting and decided that you might find it interesting

as it was recorded only months after the events took place d contains a great deal of detail.

Before I start I just want to say that the reason I am sharing this info with you is because I hope that if enough people will share their stories we can all get a clearer picture of these creatures natures and disposition towards us. You will notice that even only months after the experience we couldn't agree on what month it was, only that it was cool and the trees had just started budding. I can't explain this except to suggest that we were both so shook up we tried to put it out of our minds.

Approx. Feb - April 1997; Less than a week after the .22 rifle sighting-in incident.Rock Creek range : I travel down to sight in my SKS, my mother comes along to get out of the house. After we arrive and I get ready to start sighting in, my mother decides to walk down the road towards the boat ramp. The time is late evening. After I finish sighting in my mother is coming back up the road. We decide to check an area across the ravine from the shooting range. This is reached by walking down the road towards the boat ramp and then going up an access road leading into the woods and then climbing uphill to a position directly above the ravine & across from the range where the car is parked at an angle to our line of sight. I find nothing of particular interest upon reaching the spot where I had placed deer corn prior to last season, and as I recall, no deer tracks either. My mother then informs me that she needs to answer the call of nature and starts down the ravine to do so. As I turn my back to insure her privacy, I decide to sit down with my back to a small tree and try to enjoy the beauty of the evening. As I am sitting there, and as my mother has just climbed back up the hill, we both hear the first of two high-pitched whistling screams. The first scream comes from the west and sounds as though it might be from a hundred yards distant. At about this time my mother says she turned and looked at the car. What she saw is as follows : The car, parked at an angle. On the other side of the car, standing by the drivers side door, and therefore partially blocked from view by the nose of the car and part of the windshield and roof, was a large, very broad shouldered, hair covered creature, back lighted by the descending sun. This creature was of general (human) outline, with some notable exceptions. Most noticeable was it's size; later measurements (Using the car as a scale of reference.) showed it to be approx. 7 1/2 feet in height. Also noticeable, was a thick covering of dark brown hair, that stood out from the body and displayed a reddish tint in the fading sunlight. As well as having a pointed head. (Due to backlighting the front portion of the body was not discernable.) This was observed by my mother for a moment, after which she turned to tell me that someone was standing by the car, and when she looked back it was out of sight. It was at about this time, before I got up from where I was sitting, that I heard a second, much closer, whistling scream coming from the north (The ravine was to our south.). I had been unable to identify the last scream so I listened to this one to see if it might have been made by a cow. But it was too high-pitched, and began and ended suddenly, without any of the rising and falling in pitch that so strongly characterizes a bovine call. After listening to this, and not knowing what to make of it, I get up to have a look at the car to see if I can tell what my mother was seeing. I look first with my eyes, then with the scope of my rifle, and can see nothing.

Thinking my mother may have mistaken an intervening tree for a person, I ask her if it is still there. She says that it's gone. At this point I notice that it is becoming twilight, and ask my mother if she is ready to leave and head back to the car, which she agrees to with a note of visible concern in her voice. We head back down the hill and back to the main road without incident. However, as we start to follow the road up the hill to where the car is parked behind intervening brush, we run into a wall of very powerful odor. The smell, in my estimation, smelled like a cross between an open sewer and a pigpen. This smell seemed tofrighten the small dog a great deal, which caused my mother much trouble in trying to control it. It was also at this point that my mother and I both agree that we began to feel an overwhelming sense of danger and menace. it was so strong at this point that if my back wasn't to the lake, I would've turned around and went the other direction, for it was coming from the brush beside the car. (It was too dark to see into the brush at this time as the sun had just went down.) But the car was our only way out so I started up the road with my mother right behind me. I walked to within about 10 yards >of the heavy brush, and about 25 yards of the car. I considered firing into the brush, but I new the car was directly opposite. I also knew that what we were smelling was inside the brush right beside the car. I compromised by firing two shots into the air. After what seemed like forever, but more likely was 5 to 10 seconds I/we heard about 4 or 5 running footsteps, (like a human running, not quadrepedal, but bipedal.). What was unusual was that they were extraordinarily heavy, like 40lb rocks being hurled to the ground.) followed about two beats of silence and then an even heavier thud. (As though it had jumped from the top of the range to one of the shelves below.) Upon hearing this we headed for the car, I keeping my rifle ready, my mother fighting with the frightened dog. As I was waiting for my mother to get into the car, the last part of this incident occurred.

I heard, coming from the vicinity of the ledge at the edge of the rifle range, a sound which I can only describe as sounding human, but with inhuman differences, being too loud, it vared in pitch in a way I might describe as resonating. It did however give me one impression immediately; frustration, and maybe anger. My mother doesn't remember this, being preoccupied with the dog. As soon as my mother was in the car I got in and we left quickly.

I visited the area later in the summer and again noticed the same powerful odor as I drove through a creek bottom that leads out of the deep woods and towards the rifle range. Toe prints and a heel print were found there some months later.

Well that's it, I hope it is helpful.

One other note; I have photos of tree damage to the top of a young green tree about 100 yards from the sighting taken a couple of years later. Make that two notes, a friend of mine had a similar experience in almost the same spot in the 70's and two years before a friend of his saw one crossing the road only a little ways down the road. Naturally I've known the guy for years but he never told me his story till I started to relate mine to him.

* Sighting, Tom Howard letter: Rcvd 7/13/04 I had a little story to tell about the Skunk Ape. It was 1974, I'm not sure of the exact date, but it was some time after new years. I was on a road trip with two friends. We traveled from CT to FL to look up an old army buddy. We took our time and went all the way down the Keys. It was on our way back up the state to Orlando that we came upon what looked like a traffic accident.

I think that we were on Hwy 441 and or 27 in Dade County. It was about 5:30 or 6:00 AM, Just turning light. There wereSheriff Dept cars and I think Hwy Patrol.There was also a local news crw

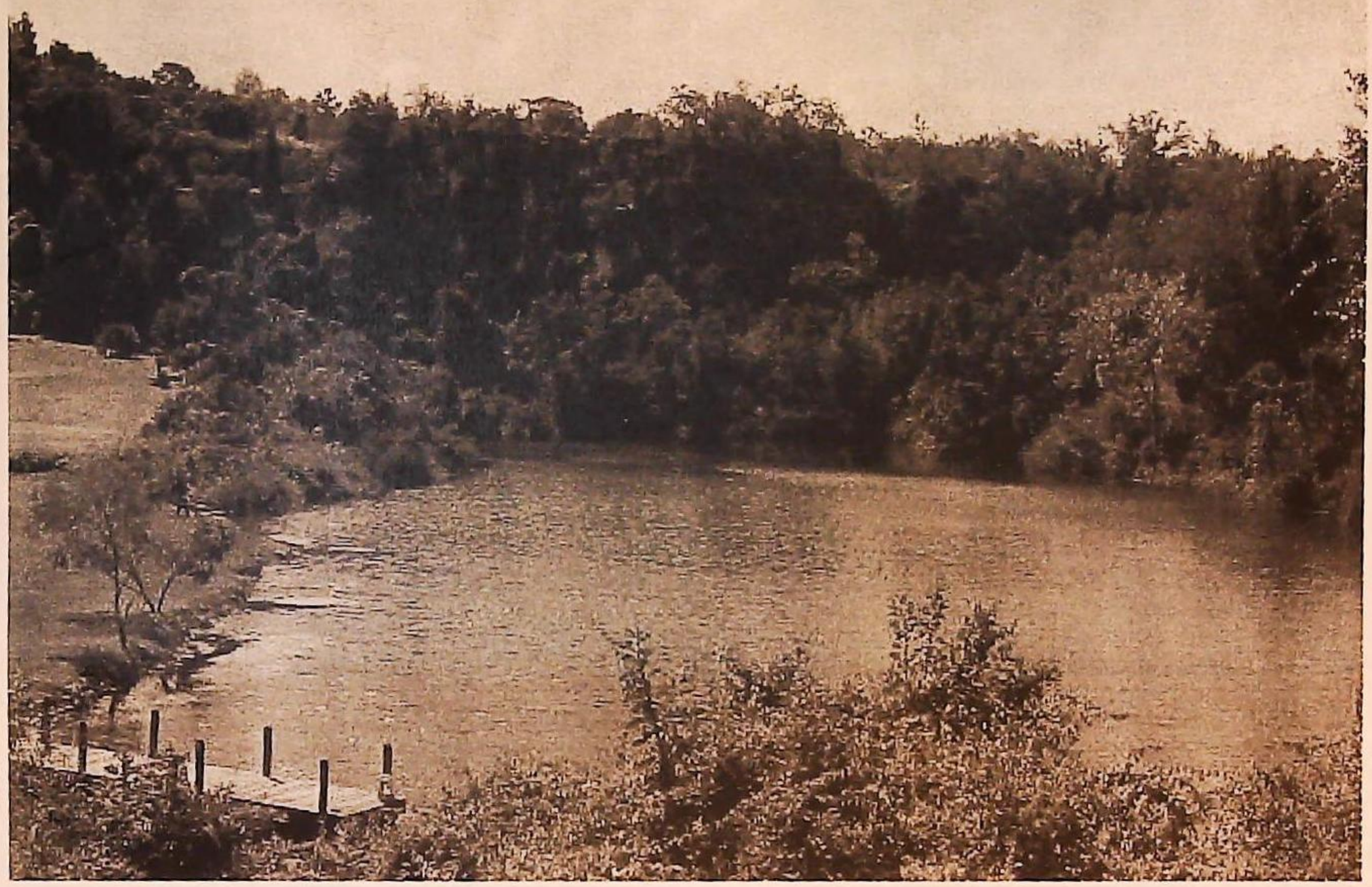
We pulled over to see what was going on. We were told that a man hit a large ape crossing the road with his car. I don't recall seeing the car but what sticks in my mind is the path that showed something had crashed through the palmetto thicket, heading into the swamp. This area that I'm talking about was swamp and palmetto thicket on both sides of the highway.

I'm sure the news crew filmed the path in the swamp. At the time I didn't think about tracks or looking around. We stayed about four or five minutes and then continued on to Orlando.

* Dennis, NE Arkansas: Hi Ray, Its been awhile since I have talked to you, and hope you are doing good. I wanted to inform you that we had a call from ***, that we need to do a job in killing one of these things, I know I will be able to get you all the blood you need, but would like to know if there is anything else I need to cut off of it you might need. I told R. this time I will be taking the photo shots of it so we will be able to make it out more.

Here Is the deal keep my name out of it to where this stuff comes from that I send to you. I need to know how to store this blood sample and how much you need and I will be sending you some flesh but not much or they will wonder. We will be headed out Saturday to do the job. A man got hurt from this one, just broke his leg from being tossed down a bluff, but we did find the man. This one is like none we have never seen before, it had no hair on top of its head, from elbows up no hair, and from knee

ROCK CRISHER CANYON RV PARK, ON ROCK CRUSHER ROAD, CRYSTAL RIVER, FLORIDA, OFF US 19



cap up no hair, skin black where no hair was, body type slender and tall but not skinny, black hair over rest of body. I need a address to where to send this stuff. Please get back to me about storing the blood before this Saturday I need to know what to do with it. You are the only person I trust Ray, please don't let me down.

* First let me say this is not a hoax or a lie, I would be more than willing to take a lie detector test to the honesty of my account of the events I'm about to tell you. I have submitted this report to Bigfoot Field Researchers Organization (BFRO) either they think I'm lying or just plain don't know what to do with it. Tim C. was the investigator that talked to me for close to three hours. And several emails back and forth. Answering the same questions over and over, was a big waste of my time. There was two reasons I submitted the report to them. First was because I was curious to know if any other more recent reports would come back after reading my report. Second hopefully some of the other people that used to go to the Rock Crusher with us would add their own reports of the sightings.

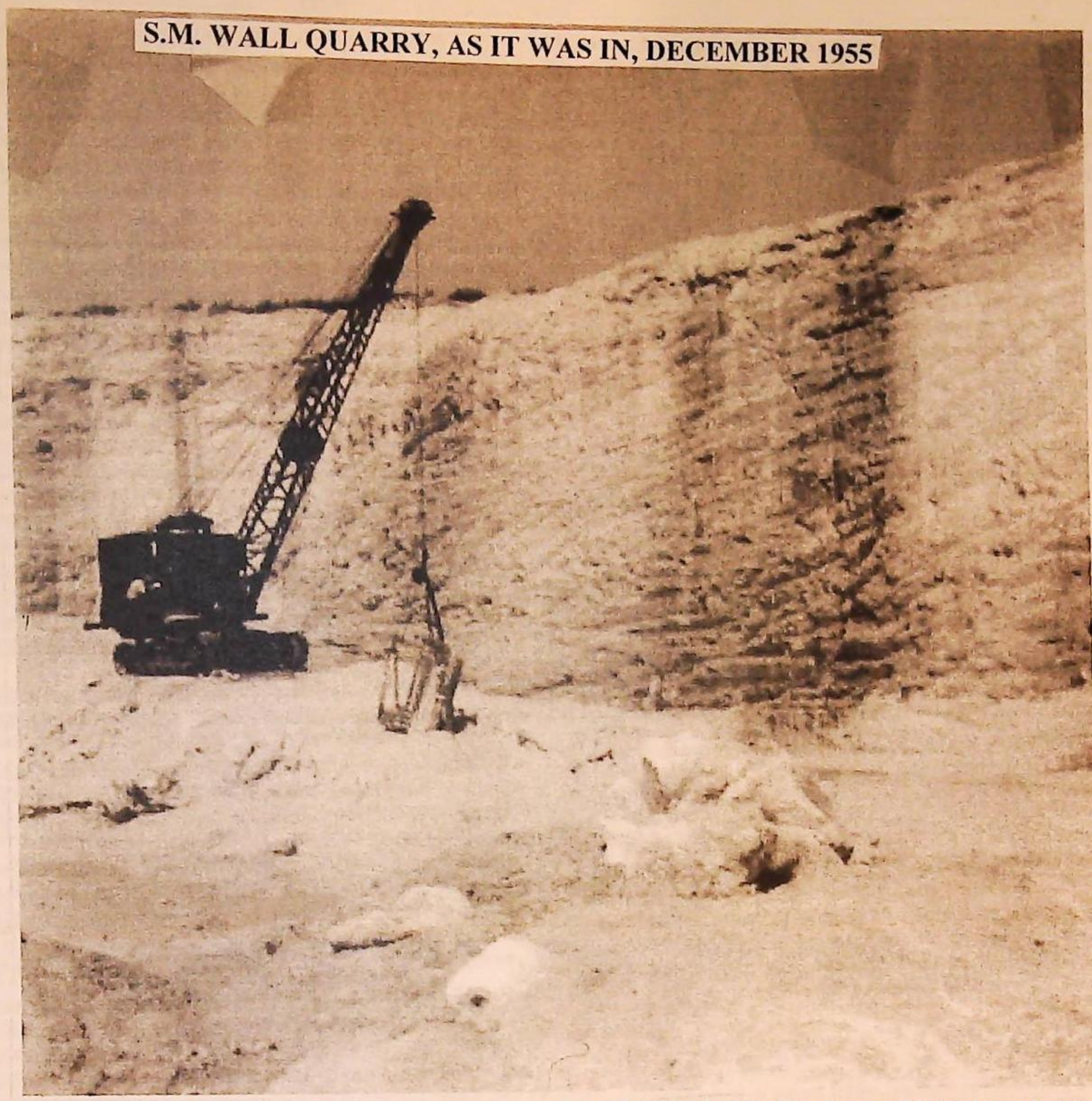
I'm sending an attachment which is some maps of the Rock Crusher, A site where you can see the Rock Crusher when they first started mining it back in 1955. Another site where you can see what the Rock Crusher looks like today as a RV park. And a hand drawn map of the way the Rock Crusher use to look like in 1969-1972 when we use to go there. In 1972 they closed the Rock Crusher and put a chain link fence around it and turned it into a Satellite station. They even tried to close the roads that ran beside the Rock Crusher to the ravines. The ravine had a lot of caves and many people where afraid to explore them because they believed Bigfoot lived in them.

I was a teenager when we used to go there and camp and hang out with my friends, because no one bothered you, no one complained about loud music, loud talking , etc. We would go there almost every week-end. Out of all the times we were at the Rock Crusher we only saw the police there once. And the police told us some strange stuff, this would be second hand information, I would be willing to explain in a phone conversation.

The first year we went there I had never heard of Bigfoot. We called them "Blue eyed Thump Thumps" Because the first thing we noticed was the blue eyes that reflects the moonlight, or headlights. And later after we gathered wood for a camp fire we heard something walking and it made a thumping sound because of it's weight. It was a year later (late 1970 early 71) that all the newspapers started printing stories of bigfoot sightings in the Florida area.

We seen eyes and heard the thumping sounds as it walked, the very first time we went there. Every time we were there we noticed eyes watching us. Just watching us, like bigfoot was curious about us. We never felt threatened or scared. One was as close to us as 30 feet, and it just hid behind a large rock and watched us.

Most of the times we were there we had just flashlights, and campfire for light. Most of the sightings were seeing the reflection of the eyes and dark moving shadowy type shapes. But on two


S.M. WALL QUARRY, AS IT WAS IN, DECEMBER 1955

occasions we brought spot lights, the kind you plug into a cigarette lighter of a car. The first clear sighting was after about 6 months of going there. We were spot lighting the pit wall on the north side and heard a noise behind us on the other side of the lake, like rocks falling or being thrown behind us. We turned the light to the south at the lake and behind it. And then we heard more noise from the north side again and turned the light back towards the limestone wall and there was a huge hairy creature climbing to the top. He was half way up the wall when we spotted him. He tried to turn to look at us but we noticed he had a very hard time looking over his shoulder, so we never really got a look at his face. Just his back, he was a medium brown color with lighter spots throughout his hair. We did notice that his hands and feet were hairless, looked like human hands and feet except huge and almost black skin color.

The second spot light sighting was about a year after we started going there, there was a group of about 25 to 30 people there that night. There were some people that followed us in their own cars. One of them had a rifle; we didn't know this until later. We were at the Rock Crusher maybe an hour or two, before we started seeing a lot of bigfoot activity. We heard a lot of chirping sounds coming from the back side of the lake, so we were using the spot light in that area, and again we heard rocks falling behind us so we turned the spot light and started scanning the rock walls. (on the hand drawn map) There's a ledge, north of the road. We spotted a bigfoot just climbing onto the ledge, and he froze when we hit him with the light. I heard a lot of ahs and ohs from our group and then I jumped because some one shot a gun. Everyone jumped at the blast and Scotty moved the spotlight. When he focused back on the ledge the bigfoot was getting up off of one knee and slid against the limestone wall behind it and started up the wall towards the ravines to the side of the pit. The bigfoot looked like he was hit in the side, about four inches from where our belly buttons are. Even the night this idiot shot the bigfoot we still didn't feel threatened or scared. We left early more because of guilt than anything else.

There is so many things that happened at the Rock Crusher, too much to type in a report. I'll give you more details on the phone. But here are just a few.

1. When we were leaving we saw the bigfoot's black shape on the top of the pit swaying in front of a full moon.
2. We were there for a daytime bar-b-que, left to get fuel to start the fire, when we came back our blanket was soaking wet, and stunk so bad we couldn't get around it, and there was wet bigfoot foot prints all around the blanket.
3. Down in the Rock Crusher pit there was a beautiful blue-green lake, and it had thousands of huge tadpoles in it. But we never seen a frog in the pit or anywhere around that area.
4. The only animal we ever seen in the pit was a little black kitten. The minute we pulled up and opened the car door the kitten flew into the car and tried to scratch and bite anyone that would try to pull her out of the car. I mean this kitten was terrified.

I realize this is a really strange report. From what I've heard, bigfoot don't stay in one place long, but this tribe, group, family stayed in the Rock Crusher area for at the very least two and a half years. Even though the Rock Crusher is now the Rock Crusher RV park, and I really doubt that the clan of bigfoot are still in that one area, There are other abandoned mining pits within the same area. I often wonder are they still being sighted in Citrus County. There are still a lot of remote areas in that county

and further north.

There is one thing that happened It's rather hard to explain. But we notice that when one of the females in our group was on the period, bigfoot would act a little different. It would come closer to where we were. In fact one night just me and a girlfriend went to the Rock Crusher, by ourselves and it was just about sunset. So Tina decided to clean her car out, she put the trash in a paper bag that already had some stuff in it. When she was done, she put the bag behind some bushes towards the north wall. No body else was there so we drove back to a small store on US 19 to use the phone. Then we went back to the Rock Crusher. We noticed the trash bag was pulled out into the open and was scattered all around. In the trash bag was two used tampons, and they were torn to pieces and on part of one looked as if it had been chewed, it was wet and there was what looked like large teeth marks in it. I'm sure this would help some researcher.

My husband and I have watched that show on OLN about the Oregon Bigfoot researchers, and we laugh. They use pheromone chips and they just don't seem to work. Then they go to a area of a sighting and spend a couple of days to a week. The first thing they do is go tromping around in the woods, very obvious setting up equipment. I would bet bigfoot are watching the whole time. They take all this equipment that makes so much noise, any bigfoot in it's right mind wouldn't go near the group. Bigfoot has excellent hearing, I've heard some researchers wonder if this is why they're not catching photos of them with animal cams, because even though almost inaudible there still is a slight sound when the camera is Activated.

When we were going to the Rock Crusher we never went out in the woods looking for it, they found us. We would have music playing we would be talking and sometimes the voices would get loud. After we had been going there a couple of months we would take extra food, and leave it. Sometimes we'd leave stuff and drive up to the store about three to four miles away and then go back, to check on what we had left. I know bigfoot hates peppermint candy, I'd always find it on the ground covered with dirt as if it had put it in it's mouth and spit it out, It took a bottle of honey, and it likes fruit flavored hard candy like LifeSavers. One of my friends went there with us only once, and she always wore too much perfume, I would have to stand down wind of her. But that night was the first time I ever heard bigfoot sneeze.

The night the guy shot the bigfoot, when he hit it, it made a sound that was very deep it sounded like a cow mooing but very deep. We never heard bigfoot scream or growl, we did hear chirps, whistles and many other odds calls. When a bigfoot would see us down in the pit it would make a sound (we could only think it was calling others) like "cherrrrwhoomp" it would make this sound a few times and then we see more sets of eyes.

So after all this, and my bad experience with BFRO, I'm sure you can see why I wanted to send a email to the person that wrote the article "Multiple Sightings." It's even more frustrating when you know there are other people out there that have seen the same thing as you, but you've lost touch with them. These bigfoot events were something I took for granted back then. I was a dumb teenager at the time. But if I only knew then what I know now. I would have had gotten all the evidence I could have gotten my hands on. There were always footprints in the mucky area of the pit, the blanket that it got wet as if it rolled around on it, and put it's scent on, we could have had at the very least two pictures at a distance of about 70 feet. And the blood left on the wall on the ledge where it was shot.

* Sighting: Nigel Ker England Can you contact: Yes
Can you publish: yes Date: Approx June 2001, Time: Early Morning; The sighting was at the Savage River Lodge which is located slightly southwest of Frostburg, Maryland. (Location details are at http://www.savageriverlodge.com)

The sighting was behind one of the cabins at the lodge, uphill and to the rear of the cabin and in dense forest.
Witness was: Getting dressed before going down to breakfast

I was staying with my family and some friends at the Savage River Lodge. Each family had a cabin which were all located uphill from the main lodge and within the forest. I was getting dressed ready to go down to an early breakfast when I happened to look out of the window at the rear of the cabin which backed onto the forest. There was a small path or break between the trees that was in line with the window which allowed me to see a little further into the trees than I would otherwise have been able to do. It appeared that after about 50 yards or so the path led to an open area of some kind (was a little wary of going up there afterwards so I never did investigate the terrain). As I was looking through the window, I realized that I was looking at what I assumed to be a tall bear who was standing at the point where the path met the clearing. From the relative safety of the cabin I was not worried so I watched for about 5 seconds. The creature then walked to the left and out of my sight. It was at this point that I realized that I had seen something odd because I am sure that bears don't walk like that. It walked in a similar way to a man with a slight stoop although I was sure it was not human.

I asked the people that run the lodge if they had ever had anyone see any bears or similar in the area but they said they didn't know of anyone. (However, it must be said that they had only just opened the lodge at the time so I guess they would not necessarily have been familiar with the local fauna.) I also checked if anyone had been out walking at the time but there weren't many people staying at the lodge at the time and those that were said they had been in bed at the time.

I would guess it was over 6 feet but less than 7. Dark hair but I didn't get an impression of the color. No other recollections.

* Skepticals please...third eye? Must be a hoax or a joke.
Sighting:Nico Finello, 248 Inverness Circle, Chalfont, PA 18914, (215) 997-1924; Can you contact: Yes; Can you publish: yes
Date: June 20, 2004 at Night

In the back of our woods with a pond in the middle.Actions of reporter:Looking for the creature.Witnesses:Gia F, James M, Dan M, Kevin M, and Simon G. We were walking through the woods looking for the creature when we saw a dark figure crouching in a bush looking right at us. Then, it darted off in a blur. Everybody there ran away scared and yelling. It was about 7 foot, 2 inches. It looked about 300 pounds. It had white hair and black skin. It had two main red eyes in normal placement and one smaller red eye on the forehead. It had hands about 6 inches long. It had a size 12 foot. There is no odor but at night time, we hear a scream from the woods. The creature does not wander around from area to area, we have proof that it lives in the woods.

* Sighting:Sachia M.Can you publish: yes; info: 07/04/04, 3:30 a.m. A marina upon the Willamette River.

Witness was sitting off the ledge finger of a dock stargazing alone.; Other witnesses: Skippers , Sailors, Captains, The locals.

The river is very calm I look at the water sitting in a north position and see the top of three feet of something swim very silently about five feet in front of me for no more than 25 secs. Then made a smooth dip into the water came under me and rocked 24 foot cement finger with me on it for about 2 min.

The top part that I witnessed was 3-5 feet of straight coarse hair|tall yellow brown] the rest of the body was submerged and the view was by florescent lighting. There was no sound up top but when it dives it rocks the boat, projects a loud tone from its air bubbles as it breaths|moaning sound]. I hear it all the time clawing or hunting under the boat. When its near, the local fish tend to jump for fear out of the water...hoping to get a snapshot!

* Some recent BFRO reports at: BFRO.net
-Sept 15, 2003, Price County, Wisconsin. One mile North of Lugerville grade road. Second sighting of the witness, three miles from where had seen it before on Mt. Pelee road, 2002). It followed witness at a slow pace, when witness stopped, it would stop and watch, or kneel down and paw at ground, and sniff at the air. The eyes had no whites, and were like a deer, height about 6 to 6.5 feet. It had dark brown hair with blackish streaks, walked hunched over, had a broad fairly flat nose and eyes were deep set,

in on face was gun metal gray. It was around from noon till pm and the area was in cedar swampland. There are deer, bear, hare, grouse, in the area.
-1990, Liberty County, Texas, near Kenefick. Witness and mother driving north on FM 1008 between Dayton and Kenefick in late evening, or early night. Three people watched hair covered creature standing at side of road that walked into the woods. It was dark or brownish black, and very tall.
-May, 2002-2004, Jefferson County, Ohio, close to Pleasant Hill, off State Route 213. Large human-like footprints found on property the last few years. Son and nephew saw a Bigfoot a year ago. Felt like being watched in woods behind her house and noted an odor of rotting garbage, and heard a loud knocking noise, like a log being banged against a tree. Most of the incidents occur after it has rained. 8-10 Tracks 17 X 8 inches with long strides found near front of house. A very dark brown Bigfoot was seen watching two boys wade in a creek near the front of the house.
-March 2004, Hardin County, Ohio, near Westminster, Alger, and Harrod area, near route 117 and 235. Witness, wife and mother at 2am drove home and saw a dark shape that was lying in the ditch that goes under a bridge. Creature rushed at the car very fast, and witness sped away. The creature had come out on road behind them, having approached within 15 feet. It was immense and had very coarse looking dark hair and a large stomach. There was a terrible dead animal odor. It was foggy and chilly out.
-June, 1978, Morrow County, Ohio, close to Fulton on Main Street. Witness riding mini bike at 2PM on bright hot summer day, sees creature with watery looking black eyes, no whites, 8-9 feet tall, and covered with a reddish brown fur that was thick but not long, except on head which was ten inches. Skin around face looked off color gray. Creature stood with hand on the trunk of a tree, the other hand holding a branch back out of the way.
-April, 1993, Monterey County, California, near Greenfield, Arroyo Seco Road, at Abbott Lakes. Just inside Los Padres Nat Fst. Forest Service witness on fitness run sees creature walking up hill 20 feet away. Creature was 8 ft tall. Other members of the Forest Service had seen creature also. Area covered with heavy oak trees, poison oak, brush chaparral. In 1995 witness again saw creature walking down a slope. It had a turtle shaped head and appeared to have a long tail(actually long matted hair), and moved at a very fast pace away from witness and partner. Campers had complained of screaming noises. Witness had seen the creature once in the morning, once during the early evening, and once in mid-afternoon.

BOOKS

I was writing to inform you all of a new book that I received a complimentary copy of in the mail yesterday. It is written by Chris Murphy with assistance from John Green and Tom Steenburg. It is entitled "Meet the Sasquatch!" I have just started to browse through this book already and I can tell by just looking through it this will be a classic and a definite collectors item. The book is what I like to call "Bigfoot Gumbo!" A little bit of this, a little bit of that, thrown in to make it sure to be success. It is full of information on Bigfoot, an in-depth look at the Patterson film, native Americans and Bigfoot, classic Bigfoot tales, Bigfoot researchers, front to back color photos, classic stories as well as current bigfoot research and researchers. Some of the researchers listed, and too many to list, include, Chris Murphy, John Green, Rene Dehinden, Dr. Grover Krantz, Roger Patterson, Robert Gimlin, John Bindernagel, Ray Crowe, Daniel Perez, Tom Steenburg, Bobbie Short, Richard Noll, and the list goes on. This will be a sure fire way to introduce anyone to the field of research and a great refresher book for those who have been in the field for quite some time. I will be sending a review out to anyone interested in my next newsletter and it will also be on the PBS website at www.pabigfootsociety.com.

I highly recommend picking up a copy of the book or finding more about it by visiting http://www.hancockwildlife.org/products/meesas.htm.

If you are looking for a good read, this book appears to be well worth the money!
Eric Altman

* BIGFOOT BOUNCES BACK NEW BOOK ON BIGFOOT CONTROVERSY, July 21, 2004
By: NICK REDFERN, Stone Forest Editor

According to the back-cover blurb for this new title on North America's most famous man-beast, Bigfoot: "Meet the Sasquatch is a milestone in the publication of sasquatch information. Never before have so many resources been researched and consulted on the phenomenon, nor have so many associated photographs been published under one cover. Indeed many photographs are being published for the first time. The author and his associates, all active sasquatch researchers, produced the work to accompany an extraordinary exhibit at the Vancouver Museum, Vancouver, British Columbia in the summer of 2004. While the last chapter on sasquatch has yet to be written, sasquatch has yet to be written, here is the full story of what we know about the

Yeti

Title: Meet the Sasquatch
Author: Christopher L. Murphy (with John Green and Thomas Steenburg)
Publisher: Hancock House, Price: $75.00

creature to date. The level and quality of research and photographic coverage will amaze both the believers and skeptics alike. Chris Murphy, John Green and Thomas Steenburg have published many papers and over a dozen books on this topic. The supplemental information contributed by other researchers, scientists, artists and technicians makes this a unique publication. As our title promises, the reader will truly Meet the Sasquatch."

Well, I'm not usually in the habit of quoting so extensively from the back-cover blurbs of newly published books, but on this occasion I have made an exception; and for what I consider to be a very good reason. I do not hesitate when I say that if you are only remotely interested in the Bigfoot mystery (and arguably, the myriad other man-beasts of the great forests of North America), then you should waste no time at all in getting hold of a copy of Meet the Sasquatch – a title that I consider to be one of the most important books (and certainly the most visually stunning Bigfoot book ever) to be published on the subject for a long time. Although the book costs a hefty $75.00, in my own opinion, the sheer scale of superb illustrations that accompany this title are worth the cover price alone. And the authors have impressive pedigrees, too.

hancock house

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E-mail: promo@hancockwildlife.org Web: www.hancockwildlife.org

Chris Murphy retired in 1994 after 36 years service with the British Columbia Telephone Company; and as an avid philatelist, has authored several books on Masonic Philately. John Green is a retired newspaperman, a graduate of the University of British Columbia and Columbia University and the author of the authoritative and classic title, Sasquatch, The Apes Among Us; and Thomas Steenburg is the author of three books on Sasquatch sightings in both Alberta and British Columbia. But to the most important part of all: the contents of Meet the Sasquatch. I could ask, given the incredible amount of data contained within its pages: where do we start? I guess with a volume like this, the beginning is the best place!

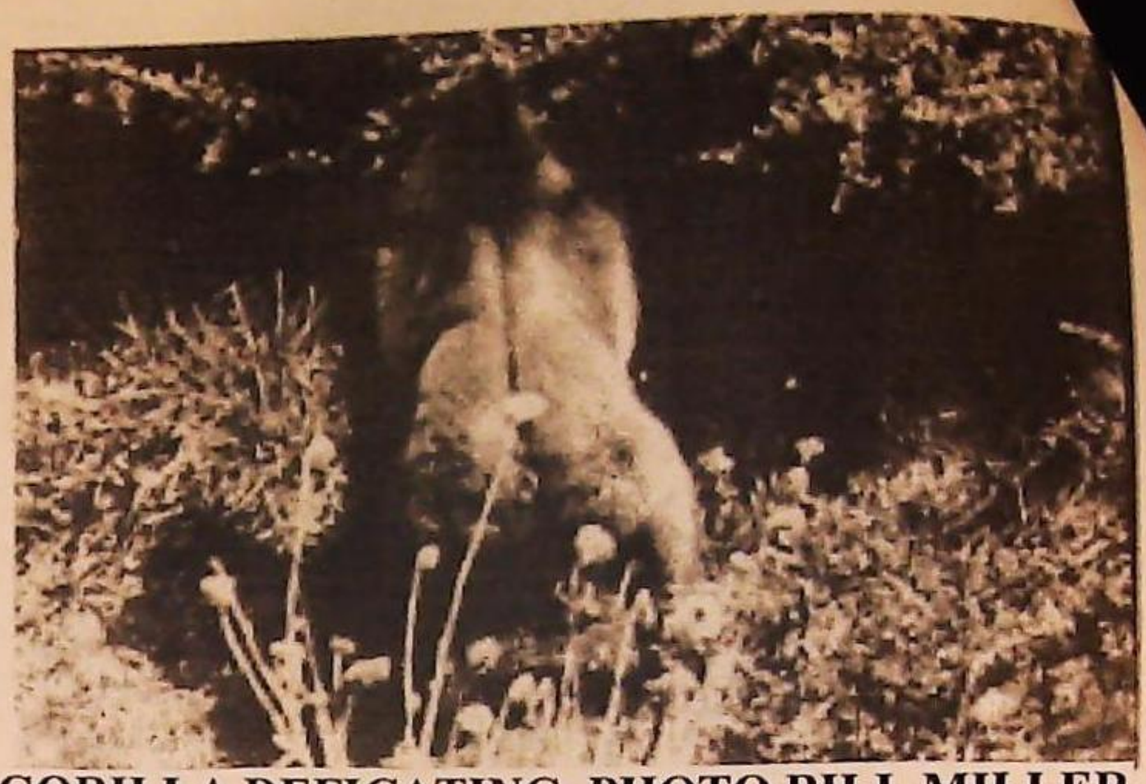
While skeptics are keen to assert that Bigfoot is little more than a modern day myth, the authors demonstrate that this is simply not the case and that anyone who claims that the story of Bigfoot originated in the 20th Century is wildly off the mark. Highlighting cases that stretch back as far as 1500 BC and that center upon ancient, carved stone heads that eerily parallel some of today's descriptions of Sasquatch-style entities, the authors reveal significant and little-known data in support of their argument that the Sasquatch has a longstanding place in the culture of Native American Indians that stretches back centuries. Accompanied by a beautiful and haunting image created by Yvon Leclerc, this particular section of the book also covers additional stone carvings, petroglyph carvings of large and lumbering, hairy, man-like beasts and richly detailed wood carvings, such as the "dance mask" of the Kwakiutl First Nations, that represents the so-called Buck'was, or "Wild Man of the Woods." Again, full-color, page-sized photographs and startling images graphically bring this seldom-discussed aspect of the Bigfoot mystery to life in spectacular fashion. On a similar path, much-welcome coverage is given to an intriguing set of pictographs that can be found on the Tule River Indian Reservation in the Sierra Nevada Foothills of central California, and that show distinctly Sasquatch-like imagery of a creature known as mayak datat or "Hairy Man." But Meet the Sasquatch is not solely steeped in ancient history – as fascinating as this aspect of the overall mystery certainly is.

As the authors note: "Early written references and recorded sightings that could refer to sasquatch creatures in North America go back about 200 years." To amply illustrate this, they describe the case of the explorer and geographer David Thompson (1770-1857), who found unusual, 14-inch long, tracks near the site of Jasper, Alberta in the winter of 1811. The authors also reveal how in 1847 at

Mt. St. Helens, Washington the noted explorer and artist Paul Kane heard tales from the local Indians of "a race of beings of a different species…whom they hold in great dread" that "inhabited the mountain;" and they cite a number of seldom-seen newspaper reports from the 1800s, all describing encounters with unknown, hairy, man-like creatures, such as the article from the 9 May, 1851 edition of the Memphis Enquirer which describes an encounter in Arkansas with a "wild man" of "gigantic stature"

that was "covered in hair." One again, old photographs and high-quality imagery accompanies this section of the book.
And for newcomers to the Bigfoot controversy, Meet the Sasquatch provides data on some of the more well-known and pivotal cases of the last 100 years, including the 1924 story of "The Apemen of Mt. St. Helens," as related in detail by prospector Fred Beck in his book I Fought the Apemen of Mt. St. Helens, and in which Beck and four prospector colleagues had a terrifying encounter with a group of distinctly hostile Bigfoot-style entities at what has now become known as "Ape Canyon." Albert Ostman's ever-controversial (but nevertheless intriguing) account of having been effectively "kidnapped" by a family of Bigfoot (or should that be a family of Bigfeet?) in 1924 deep in the heart of the forests of British Columbia is retold; as are classic encounters on the banks of the Fraser River near Ruby Creek, British Columbia, an almost-fatal (for the Bigfoot!) encounter with a hunter who nearly shot a Sasquatch but decided at the last minute to refrain from killing the beast because "he felt it was human;" and the story that gave birth to the name Bigfoot.

But perhaps most welcome is the large amount of data presented on the famous (some would say infamous) piece of film



GORILLA DEFICATING, PHOTO BILL MILLER

footage shot by Roger Patterson and Robert Gimlin on 20 October 1967 and that appears to show a female Sasquatch in the vicinity of Bluff Creek, California. The story is endorsed by some researchers of the mystery; while others cry "Hoax!" To their credit, the authors do not shy away from presenting all of the available evidence and they examine the claims both for and against the film being authentic. But once again, it is the incredible number of full-color images related to this case that really attracted my attention. I have read extensively on the subject of the Patterson film; however, to see so many images, photographs, paintings and drawings all underneath one cover on this particularly intriguing affair is a great experience. And the inclusion of this material really does provide the reader with a unique perspective on the story, its location and the players involved. If you are new to the Bigfoot controversy and want to learn more about the Patterson controversy, this is a great place to start, to view key imagery from the footage, and much, much more.

Footprint and plaster-cast evidence (and, again, a copious amount of photographs on the subject) feature heavily, as do the technological advances that have helped in the search for the Sasquatch. However, I was particularly fascinated by the body of research that had been done on alleged handprints of the beasts. Although this aspect of the search is limited to a relatively small amount of data, it is nevertheless presented well and again with an abundance of images.

I could go on and on about this book, its contents, the illustrations and much, much more. But I won't. Instead I will say this: if you only buy one book on the Sasquatch and Bigfoot mystery, buy this one. Meet the Sasquatch is a true classic

* Only Fools and Goatsuckers - the search for the Chupacabra is available, price £12.50/SUS22 (inc p&p), from the author at the Centre for Fortean Zoology, 15 Holne Court, Exwick, Exeter, EX4 2NA

Jon Downes is the Director of the Centre for Fortean Zoology - for ten years the world's leading organisation devoted to mystery animals. For more details about the organisation, its work and how to join write to the above address (with a SAE) or check out the CFZ website http://www.naplesnews.com/npdn/ma_islander /article/0,2071,NPDN_14919_2954626,00.html

CONFERENCES

* Second Annual Everglades Skunk Ape Festival will begin at noon Saturday, June 12, (Its Over now) at Trail Lakes Campgrounds, 40904 U.S. 41 E. in Ochopee. The event will celebrate Florida's legendary Bigfoot. Live entertainment will include Southern Impact and Rhythm Culture, and new skunk ape photographs will be displayed. Miss Skunk Ape contest is planned. Admission is $10. Information: 695-2275.

* Naples Daily News - Naples, FL, USA
Believers, skeptics celebrate legend of the skunk ape By TRACY MIGUEL, tmiguel@naplesnews.com June 13, 2004

The second annual Everglades Skunk Ape Festival attracted more than 100 believers and skeptics to a day of live music and food at the Trail Lakes Campground in Ochopee on Saturday.

Tales of South Florida's skunk ape, a homegrown counterpart of Bigfoot in the Northwest, have circulated locally for decades.

The festivities began Friday night with live bands and about 75 people. "It's mainly about having a good time and a way for people to talk about what they have seen," said Collier County's skunk ape expert and host of the festival, David Shealy.

Despite never having seen a skunk ape, Naples resident Ron Mitchell said there was great music and food.

"This really is Southern hospitality in Southwest Florida," said Mitchell, who was visiting the festival for the first time.

The event was a fun way to spend Saturday with family and friends, said Jonathan Thompson, who had camped at Trail Lakes Campground before.

Shealy's first sighting of the skunk ape was 30 years ago. He was 10 years old, and he and his brother, Jack, were out hunting when they saw it.

Since then Shealy has devoted his time to showing his videos and pictures of the skunk ape to the public.

In the past, Shealy has appeared on TV shows such as "Inside Edition," "Extra," and "Unsolved Mysteries."

The skunk ape has characteristics which make it different from Bigfoot. It weighs about 300 pounds, has reddish-brown hair, is 7 feet tall and eats beans, said Shealy.

The skunk ape also has a distinctive odor.

"It smells like boiled eggs, toilet, dog breath, and paper bags that stick so much," said 12-year-old Hannah and Dylan Ward, 6.

Yet Shealy isn't the only person who claims to have seen the skunk ape in the Everglades and Big Cypress.

"It sounds a bit stupid, but in the beginning of August 1998 I saw something strange and amazing, like a bear and half man, that walked like a monkey when I was camping here (Ochopee)," said Jurgen Hartmann, from Heidelberg, Germany.

Many first-time guests enjoyed their visit to Ochopee.

"This is Florida, a neat thing to come to and meet nice people," said Ryan

Larry, from Naples.

The festival included live music by Hot Country and Southern Impact and a Ms. Skunk Ape contest, won by Missty Haney.

[note: Shealy is not highly regarded by many in the Bigfoot community]

* Greetings friends and associates:

I wanted to send out a reminder about the 2004 East Coast Bigfoot Conference to be held on September 25, 2004 at Pitzers Townhouse Restaurant 101 S. 5th Street, Jeannette PA 15644. The event runs from Noon to 7:00 pm with doors opening at 11:00 am. Admission is only a $5.00 suggested donation at the door. Children under 18 are free.

The event is shaping up to be another fantastic conference in the making. We have some excellent speakers lined up.

Daniel Perez, Author, Bigfoot Researcher and editor of Bigfoot times from California.

Mike Frizell, director of the Enigma Project of Baltimore Maryland will be speaking.

Dr. Travis McHenry, co-founder and director of the Para Normal Research Response Team from Virginia.

Don Keating, Bigfoot Researcher, Author, Director of the Eastern Ohio Bigfoot Investigation center, editor of the Monthly Bigfoot Report of Newcomerstown Ohio.

As a special added bonus, the conference will also feature two paranormal/Ghost investigators speaking on hauntings and ghost investigations.

Rick Fisher, Founder and director of the Pennsylvania Ghost Hunters Society, Founder and director of the Paranormal Society of Pennsylvania, editor of the Pennsylvania Paranormal Magazine from York Pennsylvania.

Rosemary Ellen Guiley, PHD, Paranormal investigator, Author of over 30 books and publications from Baltimore Maryland.

Marc Dewerth, Bigfoot Researcher with the BFRO, MSBRR, PBS, from Columbia Station Ohio, will serve as guest Auctioneer

Eric Altman, Bigfoot Researcher, Director of the Pennsylvania Bigfoot Society, editor of the Keystone Sasquatch Report, from Jeannette Pennsylvania will serve as master of ceremonies.

The event will feature displays, merchandise available for purchase, and a Bigfoot Auction. Special thanks!!! to those who have already contributed to the auction. There is plenty of time left to contribute and become a sponsor for the conference. If you are interested in contributing a Bigfoot or paranormal item to the conference, please send all items in care of the Eric Altman P.B.S. 26 Cardinal Drive Jeannette PA 15644. Contributers will be listed on the PBS website as a conference sponsor as well as in the conference program. Also we will be happy to place out any flyers, promotional items, or brochures at the conference.

There will be a dinner on Friday night meet and greet with the speakers who are able to attend. the meet and greet will take place on Friday evening at Pitzers Townhouse at 7:00 pm. On Sunday afternoon there will be a hike held in a remote area of Southwestern Pennsylvania where several recent sightings and footprints have been discovered.

There will be several film crews in attendance filming for various documentaries. A film crew from Australia will be joining us on Saturday and Sunday. they will be filming for an up coming episode of Animal X on Discovery Channel.

For more information on the conference visit the PBS website at www.pabigfootsociety.com or email bigfootboy_2000@yahoo.com. You may also contact by phone at 724-374-5555

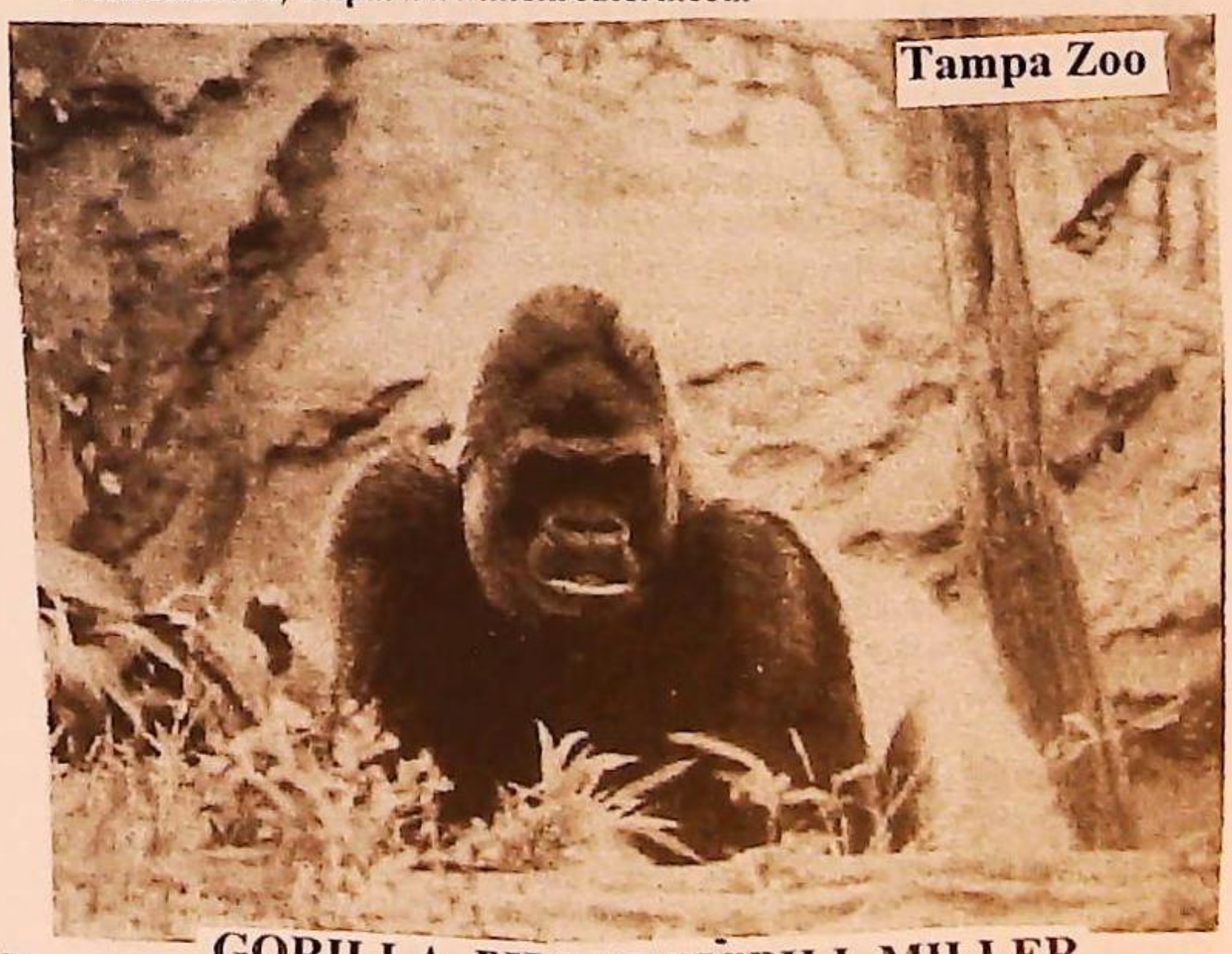
Eric Altman, Pennsylvania Bigfoot Society, 26 Cardinal Drive Jeannette PA 15644 724-374-5555 PBS Hotline
www.pabigfootsociety.com

* The Texas Bigfoot Research Center
Texas Bigfoot Conference 2004
http://www.texasbigfoot.com/events4.html

Friday & Saturday, October 22nd & 23rd, 2004

The Conference will be held at the Jefferson High School. This is a new, larger, more comfortable facility this year. Better air conditioning. 1 Bulldog Drive, Jefferson, Texas, 75657, http://www.jeffersontx.com

Featured Speakers include:
Rick Noll; caretaker of the Skookum Cast
Jimmy Chilcutt
Alton Higgins; http://www.bfro.net
Sue Lindley; http://www.bfro.net
John Kirk III; http://www.cryptosafari.com/bcscc/
Scott Herriott; http://www.squatching.com
Nick Redfern; http://www.nickredfern.com



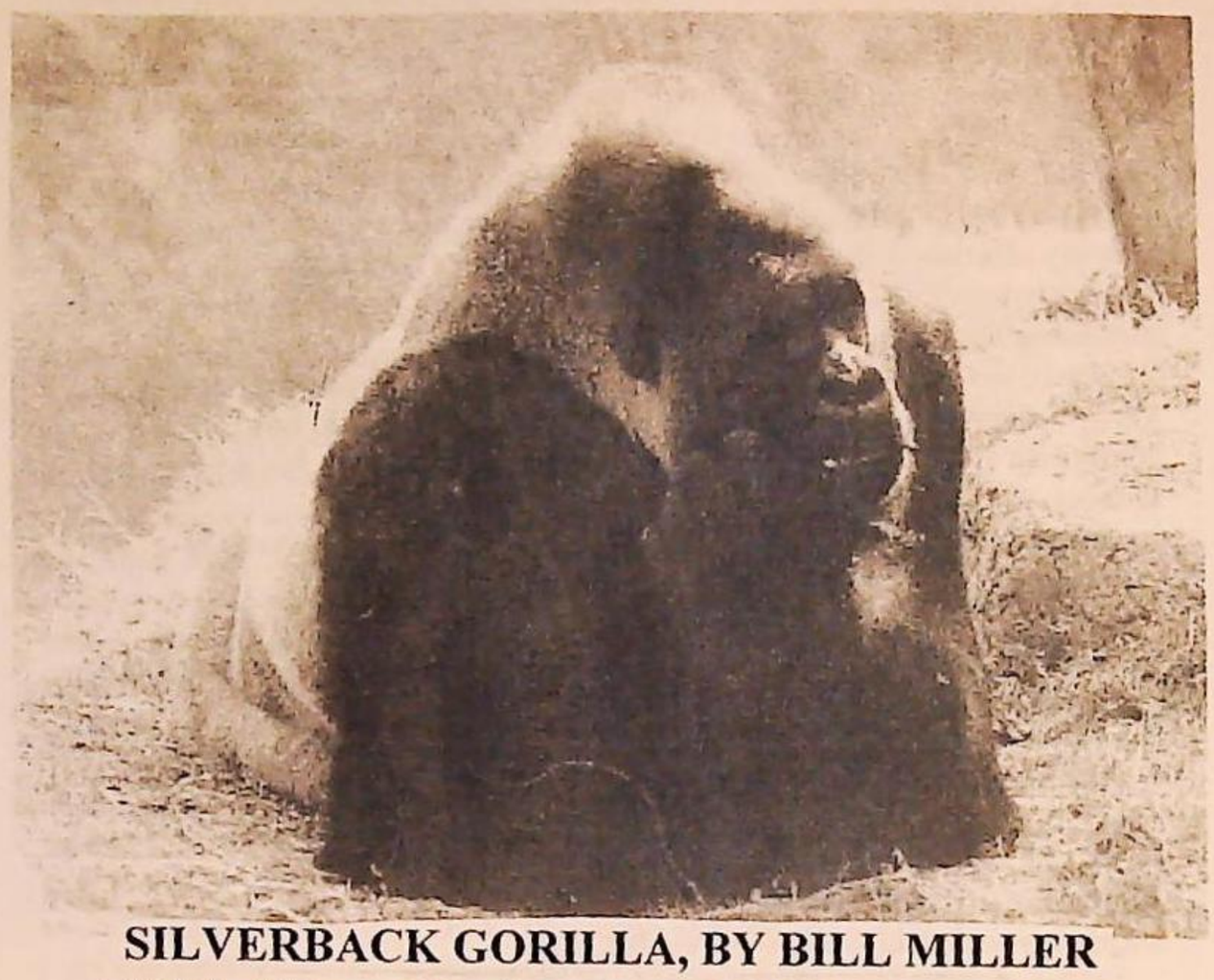
GORILLA, PHOTO BY BILL MILLER

M. K. Davis; http://www.gcbro.com
Daryl Colyer; BFRO/TBRC

For complete details on The TBRC - Texas Bigfoot Conference 2004 including the activities guide please see our website at http://www.texasbigfoot.com/events4.html
Complete details for registration at:
http://www.texasbigfoot.com/prereg4.html

MISCELANEOUS

* Long time and experienced researcher John Andrews, of Camano Island, Washington State, is interested in taking a trip to South America, and seeking a companion. If interested, please contact him at 360-387-9692.



SILVERBACK GORILLA, BY BILL MILLER

* "Michael Newton," eyeofnewt@att.net Giant hoax resurfaces May 13, 2004, From The New Nation (Bangladesh): 22 April 2004. Giant human skeleton found in Saudi Arabia By Saalim Alvi from Riyadh Recently gas exploration is going in the desert of south east region of Saudi Arabia. This desert region is called Empty Quarter, which means in Arabic "RAB - UL - KHAALEE"; this body has been found by ARAMCO exploration team. This proves what Allah SWT said in QURAN about the people of AAD nation and HOOD nation.

They were so tall, wide and very power full that they were able to pull out big trees just with the one hand. But what happen after when they become misguided and disobeys Allah SWT, Allah SWT destroyed the whole nation. ULEMA KIRAM of Saudi Arabia believes that this body belongs to AAD nation.

Saudi military took over this whole area. And nobody is allowed to go in this region except Saudi ARAMCO personnel's. Saudi government has kept it very secret but some military helicopters took pictures from air. And one of them he runs on internet here in Saudi Arabia.

* Chimps 'extinct within 50 years'
JAMES REYNOLDS ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT,
CHIMPANZEES, humanity's closest relatives, could be extinct within 50 years because they are hunted for meat and threatened by deforestation and disease, researchers have warned.

Only 8,000 remain of the most vulnerable chimpanzee sub-species, the Pan troglodytes vellerosus, which is found predominantly in Nigeria, and it could be extinct within two decades. The study was presented in Johannesburg at a conference of The Pan African Sanctuaries Alliance (PASA), which cares for orphaned or injured great apes. "It is believed that the illegal hunting and eating of apes - known as the bushmeat crisis - has had the greatest impact on the rate of decline, along with deforestation, human encroachment and disease," PASA said in a statement. Norm Rosen, an anthropologist at California State University-Fullerton, who co-ordinated the study, said: "The situation is much more critical than we thought." The study used the rate of orphans brought by people to sanctuaries to calculate the loss of chimpanzees in the wild. This showed a dramatic increase in the number of baby chimps losing their parents. Dr Rosen's study, which estimates that ten chimpanzees in the wild are killed for every orphan that reaches a sanctuary, predicts that the vellerosus subspecies will become extinct in the next 17 to 23 years. The other three chimpanzee subspecies face slightly better odds, but all are expected to disappear in 41 to 53 years, at their current rates of decline. "The numbers at the sanctuaries don't lie. You don't get the kind of steady stream of orphaned chimpanzees we're seeing without a devastating drop in the wild population," said Dr Rosen. Chimpanzees are found in western, central and eastern Africa. The 19 PASA sanctuaries currently care for approximately 670, a number that has risen by more than 50 per cent in the last three years. The study is the latest to sound the alarm about the fate of the great apes, which consist of chimps, gorillas, bonobos and the orangutans of Asia. One recent UN study said less than 10 per cent of the forest home of Africa's great apes will be left relatively undisturbed by 2030 if road building, construction of mining camps and other infrastructure developments continue at current levels. Nona Gandleman, the director of communications at the internationally renowned Jane Goodall Institute which has been researching chimpanzee behaviour for more than 40 years, said: "Some estimates put the time left for chimpanzees at less than 50 years, so this really is a crisis which needs to be addressed now. Chimpanzees still teach us so much about ourselves, and research still yields information that helps us understand human behaviour."

* The Scotsman, 9 Jun 04 From AskMen.com: 9 June 2004
The Loch Ness Monster: Truth Or Hoax? By Bernie Alexander
Entertainment Correspondent - Every 2nd Sunday

Welcome to Scotland, the home of Shrek's accent, Braveheart and haggis.Located at the northernmost tip of Great Britain, it has a history rich in tradition and folklore. It is also the home of the largest lake in the United Kingdom. Loch Ness Lake is nearly 23 miles long and, in some places,its depth exceeds 750 feet. Who knows what exactly is beneath the surface of such a massive body of water. Could there really be a monster lurking in the waters? One of the most enduring mysteries of the Western World is whether there is indeed a creature inhabiting Loch Ness Lake. The legend of Nessie, as the monster has been nicknamed, goes back more than a millennia. In the 6th century, St. Columba, the Irish monk responsible for converting most Scots to Christianity, is said to have been the first to see the monster. In fact, Columba apparently converted the creature also, in order to stop it from killing any more humans, as it had been rumored to be doing. Renewed interest, especially on a scientific level, was sparked in 1934 when London physician Dr. Robert Kenneth Wilson took a picture of the alleged beast. The photograph showed a long neck, reminiscent of the prehistoric plesiosaur, which craned out of the water. Until that moment, Nessie was the stuff of myth and legend. The Wilson picture, however, gave scientists something to brood over. The picture was examined by experts the world over. Early verdicts claimed that the photograph didn't appear to be a fake. Nevertheless, it wasn't a clear substantiation that the picture was indeed of an undiscovered sea serpent. After all, it could just as well have been an otter or a tree trunk. enigmatic pictures
In the early 1990s, two members of an expedition looking into the mystery of the Loch Ness monster, David Martin and Alastair Boyd, discovered the shocking truth behind the photo. They discovered that before he died, one Christian Spurling apparently confessed what really transpired in 1934. Spurling claimed that the picture was in fact taken by his brother-in-law Ian Wetherell, whose father had been hired by a London newspaper to locate the monster. They supposedly used a small-scale model of a sea serpent, which they attached to a toy submarine. The name of Dr. Wilson was attached to lend credibility to the photograph. It was, by all accounts, only a prank but Spurling and Wetherell opted to keep their mouths shut when they realized the scope of the

suing commotion. Still, the picture gave meaning to the lives of many. Ever since the '30s, people have been going to Loch Ness in the hopes of catching a glimpse of the so-called monster and making a fortune selling the proof to the tabloids. There have been many photographs taken since the Wilson fake and some experts believe that most of them are, in fact, genuine. The problem is that all these photos are grainy and out of focus. They show a shape with murky outlines and deep shadows, silhouettes that could represent just about anything to someone with a smidge of wishful thinking. Even Alastair Boyd, the scientist who proved the Wilson picture was fake, claims to have seen the creature in 1979. He thought that it looked like a whale.

Theories So what can this creature be? In this world of scientific reasoning, of overriding logic, there must be an explanation for the dozens of reported Nessie sightings. Scientists, in fact, have many questions and theories about this creature.

A hotly debated aspect of the creature is its age. Since the legend of the Loch Ness monster has been around for 1,500 years, it would stand to reason that the creature is extremely old, going against all that is known about a living being's life expectancy. So, it would stand to reason that there is more than one creature. Some specialists have determined that a minimum of 10 beings would be needed to sustain the species. Which might be possible if only the lake's ecosystem were capable of keeping alive a predatory animal weighing more than 650 pounds, which it is not. Over the years, some believed that Nessie was in fact a Baltic sturgeon, a massive primitive fish weighing close to 500 pounds. It has a snout as well as long spines, and could easily be mistaken for a monster. But what if it was only an underwater wave? Italian

The Thinker!
Bill Miller (gorilla photos at Saint Louis Zoo)

geologist Luigi Piccardi blames Nessie sightings on seismic activity. Loch Ness is formed on top of the Great Glen, a tectonic fault where there has been seismic tremors for thousands of years. Rumblings, rolling waves, and muffled growls are consequences of these submerged earthquakes and could very well have been mistaken for a demonic aquatic creature. In addition to the thousands of people who have camped out on the shores of the lake over the years to get a glimpse at the creature, there have been professional scientific expeditions that have tried to shine a light on the riddle. For instance, in October 1987, 20 cruisers meticulously scanned the waters with state-of-the-art sonar equipment, bouncing signals off the bottom to get a digital map of the lake's population; no monster was found. More recently, in July 2003, the BBC reported that the famed Loch Ness monster does not exist. In the course of an expedition covered for one of their science shows, the BBC employed 600 sonar beams, as well as satellite navigation technology to sweep the body of water in its entirety. The goal of the expedition was to spot the air in the creature's lungs, but their search was in vain, and the crew concluded that Nessie is merely a myth. Along with the Bermuda Triangle and the Philadelphia Experiment, the Loch Ness monster is probably one of the most puzzling mysteries of the 20th century. It not only put the region on the proverbial map, it also gave the locals a topic of conversation the world over. It's a fable that gives people something to believe in, and in the end, we all want to believe in something that can make our lives consequential. It doesn't matter how illogical it is; witness the number of people who revere aliens, ghosts, or any other paranormal occurrence. Wilson's fake picture may have started the hunt for a mythical creature; but with time, this myth has developed into a formidable tourist industry. The nearly $40 million US tourists generate each year not only give work to the Loch Ness residents, but also ensures that cryptozoologists keep their job and that new scientific expeditions get funded by governments. As it is now such an important part of the economy and local lore, many would be disappointed to discover that there is indeed no monster roaming the waters of Loch Ness. But as long as there's a hint of mystery, Nessie will continue to fuel controversy.

* The Vampires of Mexico Jun 10, 2004, Jona Than Downes
Cr: Kimba d'Mechie

During January and February 1998, my friend and colleague Graham Inglis and I travelled across Central America with a Channel Four film crew in search of the semi-legendary chupacabra - a vampiric entity that has been reported as preying on domesytic livestock from Brazil in the south to the middle of the United States in the north. As our journey continued I began to realise that what we were searching for was by nomeans as simple or straightforward as an unknown species of blood sucking predator. It seemed to be something far less tangible - a phantasmal entity which was somehow created by the collective consciousness of the people in the communities where the predations had been reported. The full results of our investigations are in my book, Only Fools and Goatsuckers - the Search for the Chupacabra, and run to many pages, but for now I would like to share with our readers one small incident that encapsulated the horror of these attacks, and for me at least, provided a moment of intellectual realization as I began to appreciate the true nature of the 'thing' that we had traveled so far to investigate. Ironically it all took place on our last full day in the country. As we were driving through the outskirts of the Puebla desert on our way back to Mexico city, there was a strong wind blowing off the high sierras, and we were soon driving through the middle of a dust-storm. We hada flat tyre. Now, believe me, changing the tyre of a VW Beetle in the middle of a sandstorm (especially when none of the tools that the car-hire firm had provided were the correct ones) is a task that I do not recommend to anyone, but eventually we managed it, and caked with dark brown dust we eventually got back in the car and resumed our journey. We found a small garage where, more by luck than by judgement, we managed to get our tyre re-inflated. By chance we two of the four mechanics had actually seen El Chupacabra and lived in a village where there had been a number of attacks. They took us to the village where we spoke to a number of witnesses who told us accounts remarkably similar to those that we had heard in Puerto Rico. Two youths who had been hanging around at the garage offered to take us to the village of Tlaloxitcan where the attacks had taken place. During our journey (which took approximately forty minutes) we unraveled the details of the attacks. The modus operandi was exactly the same as with the other attacks that we had investigated both in Mexico and in Puerto Rico but with one important difference. For the first time, although the corpses were exsanguinated the blood of the innocent victims (thirty animals belonging to ten households) had been scattered on the ground. We were perplexed by this anomaly until we discovered that the village where these attacks had taken place had one important difference to the site of any other chupacabra attacks that we had investigated - it was an Indian village rather than one populated by descendants of the invading Spaniards. Even many hundreds of years after their arrival there was still a surprising degree of segregation in many parts of the country. The importance of the

ethnic origin of the people of Tlaloxitcan is that because of their cultural background it would seem logical that they were closer in their belief system to their Aztec ancestors than to that of the invading Spaniards. As we have seen the sun was the most important single facet of Aztec belief, and it was also the deity to which they carried out their most well known rites - those of human sacrifice. The captives destined for sacrifice were 'striped ones', a term alluding to the red and white stripes with which they were painted on the last day. White down was pasted on their heads, black circles were painted on their eyes, and their mouths were heavily reddened. For the final ceremony they were grouped at the foot of the tzompantli [or pyramid] near the temple. One by one the victims were escorted up the steep stairway of the pyramid. As soon as they reached the top, they were thrust back over the techcatl, with great speed and precision. Their backs were bent backward under great tension, four priests bore down, each on an arm or a leg while a fifth crushed the neck backward, pressing down on the throat with a long implement. The quetzalcoatl or high priest who wielded the tecpatl struck the blows that smashed through the chest. He then thrust his hand into the horrible cavity which he had opened to rip out the still beating heart. This he held high as an offering to the sun, after which he flung it into a bowl especially designated to collect hearts. The body was straightaway tipped off the stone to go tumbling down the steps until it thudded to the bottom, where it was instantly collected by the captor and his adherents and taken away to his residence for disposal. The corpse was now a cuauhtecatl, an "eagle man," and joined the sun. In ascending the pyramid steps he had been the young sun in his rising, while being sacrificed on the techcatl he was the sun gloriously poised at his zenith. His tragic descent was the sun going down into the earth. The ceremony of Huitzilopochtli was definitely filled with many symbols which accorded with what the Aztecs believed about the sun'severyday course. Everything associated with the event had some important meaning within the context of the Aztec religion and belief system; from the willingness of the victims, to the use of the tecpatl and techcatl, and then finally the ceremony itself. It was not a violent and bloody event orchestrated to entertain or punish. On the contrary, it was thought to be necessary for the continued existence of the sun as well as all of mankind. The Aztec people sincerely felt that it was their duty to hold such ceremonies in honor of the gods, because if they didn't, the order of the cosmos would be shattered and all life would cease to exist. Without any knowledge of the Aztec religion or the people's beliefs, it is extremely hard to comprehend and quite easy to condemn the ancient Aztec practice of sacrificing humans. After some such knowledge has been acquired however, it becomes easier to understand that the Aztecs honestly felt that they were the chosen people of the sun god Huitzilopochtli and that a world without human sacrifice meant no world at all. The ethos of blood sacrifice is an integral one within Aztec iconography, and it is, I believe, important that blood was spilled in a ritualistic manner in conjunction with the only chupacabra attacks that we were able to investigate that had taken place within a predominantly non-Hispanic community. All the other incidences of chupacabra activity that we had investigated had been within predominantly Roman Catholic areas. One of the main philosophical beliefs of Roman Catholicism is a belief in the sanctity of the holy blood. The iconography of Roman Catholicism especially in Latin American countries is full of images of the blood of Christ being collected by his followers at the Crucifixion, and indeed, the most sacred rite of the Christian Church is the ritual sharing of the blood and body of Christ in the form of bread and wine. The idea of the blood of a sacrificial victim being shed on the ground (as it was by the Aztecs) is complete anathema to Roman Catholics.

It is interesting to discover, therefore, that the attacks of modern day vampirism which occured in Roman Catholic areas differed from the one attack that we were able to investigate in an Indian community only in the method of disposal of the blood of the victim. This presents an irresistible parallel with the socioreligious beliefs of the two communities.

This is not the time, nor the place to speculate on the true nature of the chupacabras phenomenon. I have done that elsewhere, and at great length. However, my discoveries that late winter day in Tlaloxican do give us a brief, but stunning insight into the nature of the belief systems surrounding thephenomena, and give us hope that although the world is undoubtedly a highly strange place, some mysteries may yet be solved.

NEWSPAPER REPORTS

* Bigfoot Legend Thrives In Alabama; Manlike Creature Lives In Ala. Peach Grove, According To Legend

CLANTON, Ala. -- For decades, people in Chilton County, Ala. have been talking about the strange creature known as Bigfoot that apparently has an affinity for the local peach crop.

In the 1960s, some strange footprints were found in a Chilton County peach grove. Now, the original investigator reminisces about the time he spent tracking Bigfoot. In our opinion, it was definitely not a fake. It was a real track, said James Earl Johnson, the former Chilton County investigator, whose case sparked the legend. We checked the peach orchard, and there was a trail leading out of the peach orchard, and it was tracks -- strange looking tracks, similar to a human but bigger and wider,â€□ said Johnson. With nothing but a print to go on, picking a name for the elusive creature wasn't very hard. Since then, Bigfoot sightings have been reported across the country, and sketches of the creature vary depending on where the sighting occurred. The name varies as well. In Alabama, the creature is known as Bigfoot, while in Northern areas, it's known as a Sasquatch. Supposedly, the legend is that a hairy manlike creature that walks on two legs at some point inhabited the bottomland swamp regions in Chilton County in Clanton, Ala., said Bryan Wyatt, a Bigfoot researcher I know one thing: (Bigfoot) likes Chilton County peaches, said Johnson.

* From Pravda:Prehistoric monsters return to modern times 07/15/2004 14:26 Giant snake in Arkansas Reports about a giant snake eating domestic animals in the settlement of Foreman, Arkansas, appeared in July of 2000. A special environmental group failed to find the snake, although one could not deny its existence. The townspeople were certain a horrible creature was exterminating their animals. Several animals were found dead with lacerated wounds on their bodies. People said animals simply disappeared from homes. Cranes and herons left the local pond for soem unknown reason. The people, who eyewitnesses the monster, all said that it was a very big snake.

Hairy elephants in Thailand

A lot of scientists traveled to the jungle of Thailand in December of 2001 to observe unusual elephants covered with fur like prehistoric mammoths. The animals were first photographed by Thai princess Rang. Several local residents came across the strange elephants too. Scientists were not sure that the photographed animals were mammoths, but they did not exclude such a possibility. Others simply ridiculed such an idea. Probably, the mysterious animals were simply baby-elephants, whose fur did not disappear. Littleelephants are often born with thick fur on.

* Stockport News; "We are going back for about a month, and we will spend all that time in the jungle with a team of trackers concentrating on three or four spots where there have been sightings. We hope to pick up a trail, try to pick out some areas of elevation in the jungle and then fan out and observe the jungle silently." "The rainforest is being chopped down. We hope that if we can get pictures, we will be able to help preserve the rainforest from illegal logging." Following their discovery in

eptember, 2001, the hairs were examined by world-renowned expert Dr Hans Brunner in Australia, who concluded that the DNA matched no known animal. His findings were confirmed by Cambridge University primatologist Dr David Chivers. He had previously said: "The footprints I have looked at are unique. It has something in common with apes, gibbons and humans, but it is different." Previous expeditions by the two explorers have included a trip to the Gobi Desert in search of the Mongolian Death Worm - a giant killer worm said to fire lightning from its eyes. They plan to return to Sumatra in September.

* June 3, 11:33 PM Hairy skunk ape seems to have escaped extinction The last time we peered into this species of mystery, about 10 years ago, the disappointing solution turned out to be two pinheads rotating in and out of a "Harry & The Hendersons" costume, scaring night-time motorists in Port St. John. Now that we've entered a new century, we certainly don't want to be irresponsible and start a needless panic. Nevertheless . . . Skunk ape update No. 5,280: Twelve-year-old Robert Sexton isn't prone to lying or fantasizing. At least, that's what his mom and dad, Karen and Michael, insist. So when the kid returned from a jaunt in the woods in mid-May, looking like he'd seen a ghost, they had to take him seriously. It was getting on toward sundown, and Robert had wandered a mile or two into a tangle of woods bordering a new development west of Interstate 95 in South Brevard County. He'd played there before. His folks are building a house nearby. "I heard this really big grunt, like a mean boar," recalls Robert, who's spent a great deal of time in the wilderness, hunting with his father. "And there was a bad smell. When I looked over, it was right there in the palm fronds."

From a distance of between 30 to 50 feet, the thing reared to a height of about 9 feet. In the dim light, Robert could make out few details about the critter's face. But it had blackish brown hair, resembled an ape, and was "definitely not" a boar, deer or anything else he'd ever seen. "We kinda' stared at each other for about 30 seconds" before the rancid sucker took two large steps toward Robert, who did a Roadrunner and meep-meeped home in a squiggle of contrails. Upon describing the encounter for his dad, Mike replied it sounded like the skunk ape. When he was a teenager, Mike and some buddies had run into something skunk apelike while hunting under a half moon. Which raises the question: What does a skunk ape do to your property value?

Let's dispense with the disclaimers first. Bobbie Short, a Californian who investigates such truck for her www.bigfootencounters.com Web site, brushes off most Florida hominid reports: "(There is) no actual evidence of corroborating witnesses to suggest that Florida has a viable population of anything remotely close to Sasquatches . . . (such) as we see in the Pacific Northwest." But we all know creepy stuff happens in the Skank Coast boonies, stuff that never gets explained. Like the cattle mutilations on the Platt ranch in 1996-97, some of which involved the extraction of eyes, tongue, ears and genitalia. Or the exsanguination of 18 Valkaria chickens in 2002. The conventional theory was, a weasel had tunneled through the coop and drained them of all blood, but to others (me), it mirrored the handiwork of chupacabras, the fabled goatsuckers of Latin America with red eyes and razored claws. We won't publish the exact whereabouts of this latest skunk ape sighting, lest it turn the neighborhood into a shooting gallery for trophy hunters. But attention developers: You might want to consider the legal ramifications of nondisclosure next time you raze rural land spooked by tales of cattle mutilations, chupacabras and skunk apes. Given the apocalyptic hell-broth of lawsuits awaiting the first unspeakable horror visited upon new residents, it might be cheaper in the long run to fence it off and develop ecotours. For a reasonable fee, I could even be a consultant. Billy Cox's column runs every Friday. He can be reached at 242-3774, or at bcox@flatoday.net.

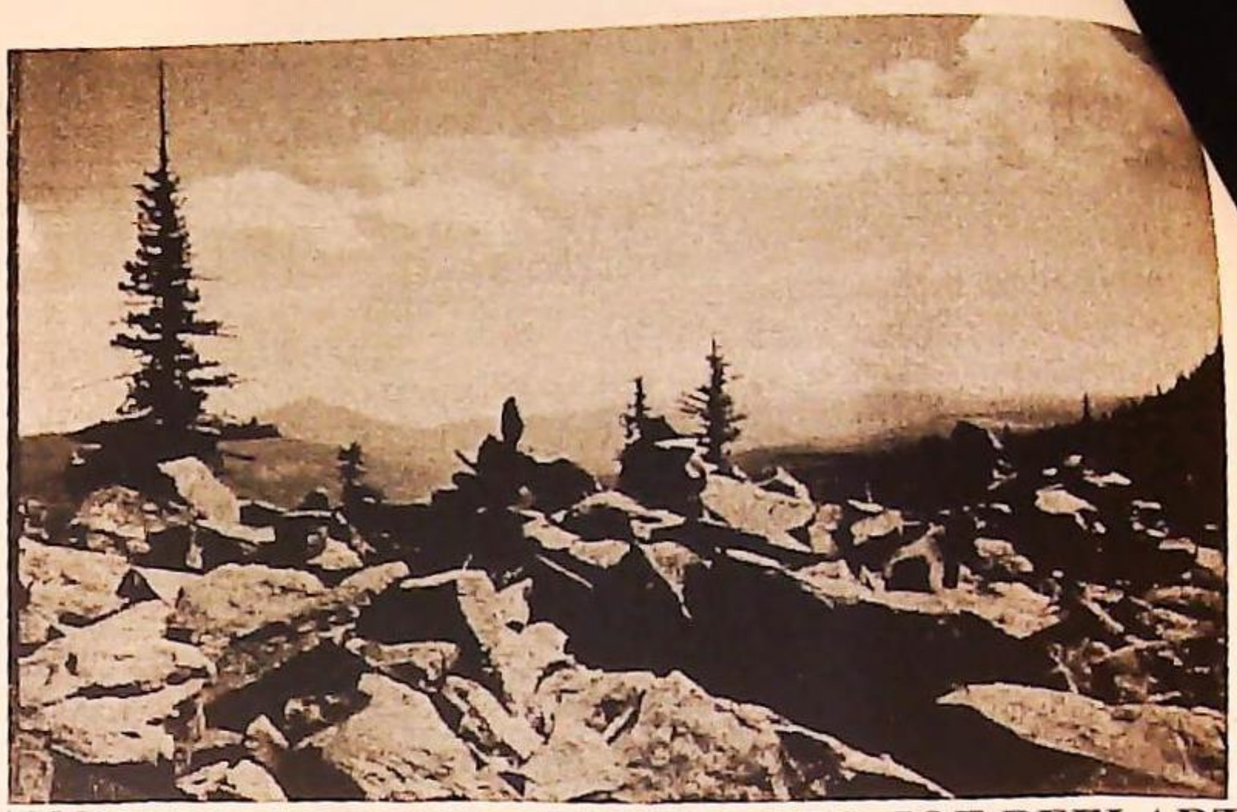
* MANBC NewsThe Associated PressThe Battle Over Kennewick Man Appears OverNorthwest tribes say they won't appeal ruling A plastic casting of the skull from the bones known as Kennewick man are shown in this 1997 file photo.The battle over Kennewick Man, one of the most complete skeletons ever found in North America, appears to be over.Four Northwest tribes seeking to bury the 9,300-year-old bones have announced they will not take their fight to the U.S. Supreme Court after losing in lower federal courts to scientists who want to study the remains, The Oregonian reported in its Friday editions.The U.S. Justice Department, which earlier had sided with the tribes, declined Thursday to say whether it would file its own appeal to the nation's highest court by a Monday deadline. Seattle attorney Rob Roy Smith, who represents the Colville Tribes, said he assumes the federal agency will not continue with the case.The Nez Perce, Umatilla, Yakama and Colville tribes filed a claim to the skeleton shortly after it was found July 31, 1996, in Kennewick, Wash.However, they faced a quick challenge by scientists who said the skeleton could provide valuable information about the early settling of the Americas. Smith said the tribes considered at length whether to appeal the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals' February ruling in favor of the scientists."Even though the tribes strongly disagree with the 9th Circuit's ruling, the tribes have decided not to," said Smith, who argued the tribes' case before the 9th Circuit.Only the Umatilla tribe held out.Debra Croswell, a spokeswoman for the Umatilla, said tribal leaders will vote Monday on whether to ask the Supreme Court to review the case, but she said indications "are highly likely that they are not going to pursue it."Alan L. Schneider, a Portland attorney representing the scientists, said his clients -- eight prominent U.S. anthropologists -- would not immediately be able to study the remains even if the tribes and the Justice Department do not appeal the case.A study plan will need to be negotiated with the federal agencies overseeing the remains, he said."Despite the rulings, the tribes still believe that these remains are of an ancestor and they want to make sure the remains are treated in the most respectable manner possible," Smith said. "And if and when these studies do take place, they want the remains to be returned for reburial."Kennewick Man is a collection of 380 bones and bone fragments now stored at the Burke Museum in Seattle.

GLEN THOMAS SITE, PHOTO BY JOE BEELART
NOTE: TRAPPER STEVE IN PIT, STACKED ROCKS

* Mansfield Citizen, Mansfield, Arkansas 4-28. A wise man once told me if you "go looking for the boogie man, you're likely to find him". So there you go. Last week in this space I wrote about a Sebastian County resident saying he had spotted what he thought was Bigfoot in a rural part of the county near Hartford back in 2002. I asked that anyone out there who had any type of similar sightings to give me a call. Personally, if there was a big, hairy, smelly throwback beast wandering around in my back yard, I would appreciate the heck out of it if someone kept me informed. That's what I'm trying to do here. Keep everyone informed. I'm not opposed to the notoriety a legitimate Bigfoot sighting can bring an area. Pretty soon, you have created a bedroom industry that can cater to a whole herd of tourist and researchers. Call it community oriented press relations. Having said all that, let me say this. I didn't really expect anyone to call me last week,

but the phone rang, and on the other end were some perfectly sane-sounding people telling me that not only had they seen a Bigfoot, but it was within a few miles of Mansfield and the incident had occurred less than nine months ago. So there you go. The folks who reported the sighting are a married couple from Mansfield. Salt of the earth type of folks. The wife teaches Sunday school at a local church. Upstanding citizens, not prone to exaggeration. Last September, when returning home from the last night of the Arkansas-Oklahoma Fair, the couple was traveling along Highway 71 on their way home. Just off the intersection of Highway 252 and Highway 71 about a mile north of Mansfield, at about 1 a.m., the wife saw something on the side of the road that defies explanation. According to her, there was something alongside the road crouched down and as they passed, it got up and started walking away. She described the creature as being well over six foot tall, four to five hundred pounds with long black hair. She says the creature walked upright like a man, and it didn't have legs like an ape. The legs were also too long to be a bear, and she says the backside of the creature looked more like an ape. "Big, hairy and tall" is her exact words. The husband, who was driving, also saw the creature, but not as well. He said the thing was "crouched down then kind of got up and came towards us" and was within six to ten feet of the roadway. The husband said there is a creek bed that runs under the road in the area and he felt like the thing was probably following the creek bed. There are cattle in the area where the creature was spotted, enclosed in three strand barbed wire fences. More about that in a second. Husband and wife say they reported the incident to a local law enforcement agency who apparently didn't take much stock in their story. But get this. As they were leaving the police station they talked to another area resident who said just three days prior, there had been another report of an ape-like creature in a field in an area on Highway 378 about a mile south of Mansfield. Supposedly, a group of young people had pulled off the side of the road and were chasing or going after the creature. (What they planned to do with it if they caught it is anybodies guess.) Once again, as in the earlier incident, law enforcement was called, and they kind of blew off the whole incident as someone playing tricks or a hoax. The couple that reported the Highway 252 incident actually went back to the site the next day and found an area of the fence near the place they had spotted the creature that was "stretched out of place, like someone had pulled apart the strands". Caught in the fence were several strands of long black hair. They took some of the strands of hair. Eventually they showed them to an area cattleman who said they didn't belong to any type of cattle he was familiar with. While those hairs have been misplaced, the couple feels like there may still be some stuck in the fence. They are currently trying to located the strands they had and if not, they are going to go back and see if there are any still left in the fence. At this point, if I get the hairs I'm going to arrange to have them analyzed by someone who can tell us what is going on. I'll pay for it myself if I have to. While my first column might have been a little tongue-in-cheek, I sincerely believe that the people who are telling me this stuff are on the level. I don't know what they did or didn't see, but I know they saw something.

They don't just think they saw something. They saw something. The folks who reported the Highway 252 incident gave me their names and are not opposed to me using their names. They did ask that I get someone to confirm what they're saying about the other incident on Highway 378 and I haven't been able to do so yet, so for now, I'm keeping their name a secret. That's my doing, not theirs. They don't want this turning into a "they said she said that he said" ordeal. As soon as I make contact with the other people involved, they have said they have no problem with their name being released. I'm not sure I believe in the existence of Bigfoot. But I can tell you how frustrating it is to tell people about something you saw and not have them believe you. Again, I reference the kangaroo I saw near Fort Smith one time. I know what I saw. No one believes me, not even my own wife and kids. They say I'm either crazy or making it up. Trust me. I don't have enough energy to keep up with the regular arguments that go on around here to being making up something to argue about. And I have defended my kangaroo sighting until I'm blue in the face. It wouldn't be worth it if it wasn't the truth. The jury is still out on the crazy part. Again, if there are anyone out there with Bigfoot stories to tell, I'm ready to listen. Call the Waldron News and they will give you my telephone number. The truth is out there. The rest of us want to hear it.



ANOTHER VIEW OF THOMAS SITE, JOE BEELART

* May 20, 2004 Tahlequah Daily Press, OK. Local residents insist - Bigfoot's really out there By Eddie Glenn, Press Staff Writer On March 2 of this year, the Press ran an article about Bigfoot sightings in Cherokee County, along with a photo of an alleged Bigfoot, standing on a rock in Pumpkin Hollow. We knew we'd get some phone calls on that one; after all, it's not every day that Bigfoot makes the news. But it is every day, practically, that someone calls the Press, wanting more information about Bigfoot sightings in Cherokee County, or (and these are the really interesting ones) telling us where Bigfoot can be seen in the area. "I can tell you right where to go to see them," said one caller, who said the upright-walking, hair-covered beast of much speculation can often be seen in the Pumpkin Hollow area. According to the woman, who said she lived in Pumpkin Hollow, the creatures come out only at night, and always in groups. "You'll smell them coming before you see them," she said. "I don't know how to explain it, except that it smells like a combination of urine and berries." Now, to a lot of people, that claim may sound ridiculous. But that woman wasn't the only one to proclaim Pumpkin Hollow as a prime Bigfoot-spotting area. Several callers - none of whom cared to be identified in print, for understandable reasons - also said they had experienced odd run-ins with "something big," as one caller put it, in the Pumpkin Hollow area. Other calls came from all over the United States from people interested in Bigfoot, and the original March 2 story popped up on numerous Web sites devoted to Bigfoot research. But one of the most informative calls came from Tal Branco, a researcher for the Texas Bigfoot Research Center. According to Branco, Bigfoot sightings are on the rise, with several recent ones in northwest Arkansas, as well as some in southeastern Oklahoma, near the Ouachita National Forest. Branco believes that fewer than 2,000 of the animals currently live in the United States, and that sightings are becoming more common because people are beginning to encroach on areas that have previously been relatively remote. According to the TBRC's Web site, a sighting occurred in Muskogee County just this April. The report indicates two Tulsa men working on an oil well saw a 7- to 8-foot-tall, hairy, lanky animal carrying the carcass of a deer or calf over its left shoulder. The report states: "A hairy bi-pedal creature carrying a calf or deer carcass over its left shoulder crossed the road from East to West, approximately 150 yards in front of my pick-up truck during a brief rain storm. A part-time rig hand with me in the truck also witnessed the creature. The following day, we found several partial footprints along the creek bank on the west side of the road. We lost the tracks after 10-15 yards in the dense undergrowth."

The man who made that report said he's also encountered, and reported, a similar creature about 30 years ago in Nebraska.

Of all the counties in Oklahoma where Bigfoot sightings have been reported, LeFlore County, in the southeastern part of the state, has the most. One small town, Honobia (pronounced "hoe nubby" by those who live there), seems to be Oklahoma's Bigfoot Central. In January 2000, the Associate Press ran a story about Tim Humphrey's encounter with what he says was a virtual gang of Bigfeet, at his home in Honobia. "They had been beating on my house, scaring my kids playing in the woods, yelling and screaming and scratching," Humphreys said. "They spilled meat out of the freezer." Humphreys said he shot one, but no proof of a body has been found. He said he has photographs of the beasts, but isn't ready to produce them yet. "People are going to say what they want to say; I'm not in this for the recognition," Humphreys said. "I didn't go out looking for them." Branco said other sightings around Honobia have been reported.

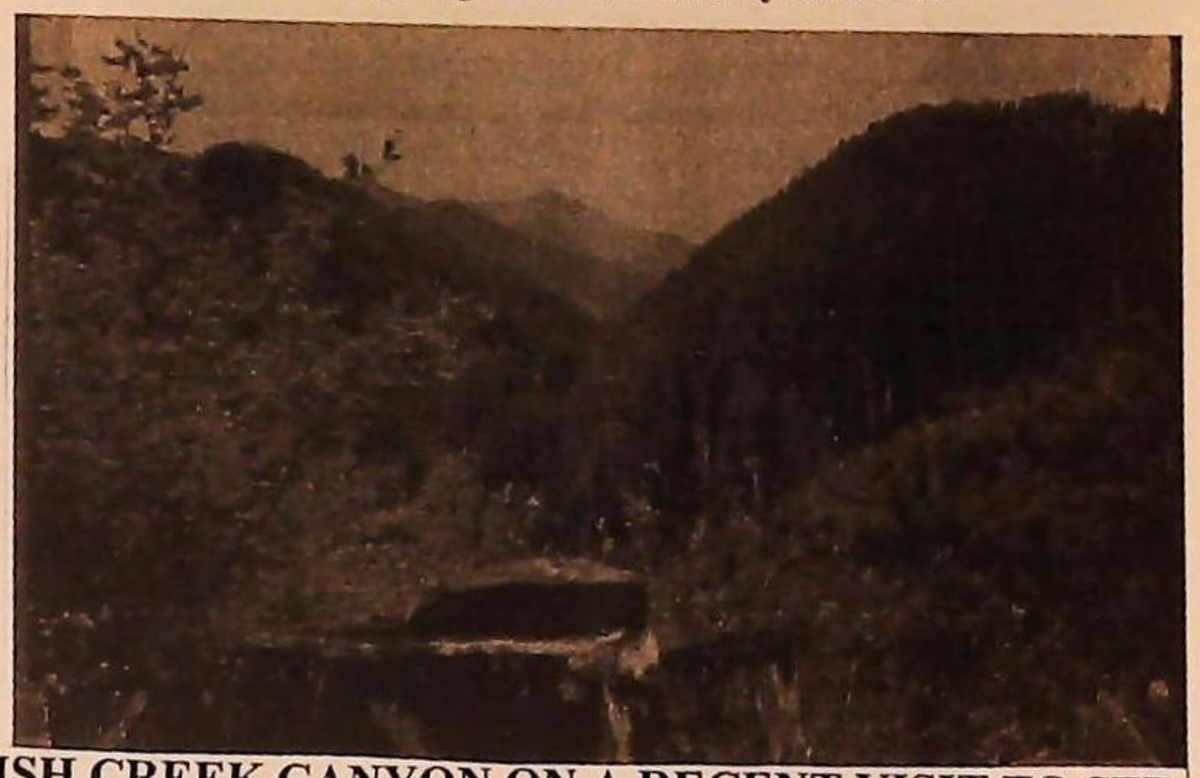
"A little bit west of there, where they were doing some clearcutting, they found some tracks," he said. "His stride was over 5 feet, and his tracks were 21 inches long and 8 inches across the foot." Branco conceded that one of the problems with verifying the existence of such a creature is - as in Humphrey's case - the lack of a body. After all, people in eastern Oklahoma (both northeastern and southeastern) tend to be well-trained users of firearms. Why hasn't anyone shot a Bigfoot? According to the woman from Pumpkin Hollow, who said she's been seeing them for years, Bigfeet just move too fast. "As soon as you hit them with a light," she said, "they're gone."

Learn more

Check out the Texas Bigfoot Research Center's Web site at www.texasbigfoot.com, and the Gulf Coast Bigfoot Research Organization's site at www.gcbro.com. Both sites have reports from Oklahoma

* Cr Loren Coleman, Clanton Advertiser;Clanton, Alabama, July 8, 2004 Bigfoot sighting reaching Silver milestone
By Jason Cannon CLANTON - Many things have changed in Chilton County. Things have come and gone, including what could be Chilton County's first and only documented 'Bigfoot' sighting. It's been almost 25-years since the original report was filed in the fall of 1960 but that hasn't stopped Bigfoot spotters and researchers from around the country as citing the events around Walnut Creek as a legitimate and marvelous occurrence. "There's a Southern version of Bigfoot that is much like a chimpanzee," said Bigfoot researcher and Professor at the University of Southern Maine, Loren Coleman. "It runs around in the bottom lands and is much more connected to the creeks and swampy areas." Two years ago, Coleman penned a book about Bigfoot and has devoted a portion of it to the uniqueness of the Clanton sighting. "At a time where people in the 50s and 60s were talking about Bigfoot being just a giant that looked like a human, this was extremely important because it shows they were more ape like creatures in the south."Coleman said the prints left behind at the Clanton scene proved the creature was more ape than man."It's a very general kind of creature that's much different than the Pacific Northwest Bigfoot that's 8-to 9-feet tall and stands upright."Also, the southern version is often referred to as a booger, a swamp ape or a skunk ape and only stands around 4-feet tall. According to reports, including those of witness Reverend E.C. Hand of the Refuge Baptist Church, the creature was seen along Highway 31 where it crosses Interstate 65 - just south of town. A few more were filed from two-miles west.
The report said, "Large and small tracks were found as if there were at least two individual animals." Then Sheriff T.J. Lockhart and Deputy James Earl Johnson investigated the scene and according to the report, described the prints left behind as "the strangest things I've ever seen." Lockhart and Johnson also took a concrete mold of the prints. The prints were described as "about the size of a person's foot but looking more like a hand."

The cast was on display at the courthouse for many years but in August 2002 the Sheriff's Department discarded it. "That's why the cast was so unique is that is actually proves that the southern 'Bigfoot' was much more like a chimpanzee than a human." Coleman said one theory is that the chimpanzees were brought over during the African slave trade and allowed to run wild. He added there have been reports filed about similar creatures for about 250 years across the south. However, there have been no other documented sightings in Chilton County since 1960.



FISH CREEK CANYON ON A RECENT VISIT TO SEE GLEN THOMAS SITE, PHOTO JOE BEELART

* From : Ben Blake, Early human fire mastery revealed
03 May 2004 By Paul Rincon BBC News Online science staff
The excavations uncovered numerous flint artefacts
Human-like species migrating out of their African homeland had mastered the use of fire up to 790,000 years ago, the journal Science reports. The evidence, from northern Israel, suggests species such as Homo erectus may have been surprisingly sophisticated in their behaviour. The find links earlier evidence of controlled fire from Africa with later discoveries in Eurasia, scientists say.The researchers say that a wildfire is unlikely to be the cause. Researchers from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and Bar-Ilan University in Ramat-Gan excavated a waterlogged site at Gesher Benot Ya'aqov. In 34m-thick ground deposits, they found numerous flint implements belonging to the so-called Acheulean tradition of tool manufacture. Some of these were burnt, while other were not.It's going to make people sit up and think Professor John Gowlett, University of Liverpool
The team mapped the distribution of the burnt and unburned artefacts and compared them. Although there was some overlap with the unburned artefacts, the burnt ones clustered together at specific spots at the site.The researchers think the clusters of burnt artefacts, which date to between 790,000 and 690,000 years ago, indicate the sites of ancient camp fires, or hearths, made by either Homo erectus or Homo ergaster. It could have been a primitive form of Homo sapiens, they say, but other researchers consider this improbable. "I believe fire was a very advantageous technology which empowered these humans," co-author Nira Alperson, of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, Israel, told BBC News Online. Some researchers believe the control of fire enabled dramatic changes in human diet, the ability to defend social groups against wild animals and aided social interaction.
'Significant find' Professor John Gowlett, of the University of Liverpool, UK, said that the find was "very significant". "Until now we only had two groups of early fire evidence: one in Africa that is more than a million years and one in Europe and Asia that's half a million years," he said. "So people were rather inclined to say, well, the early group's is probably a natural fire and the later group's is probably a controlled fire. "The thing about this find is that it lands right in the middle between those two, both chronologically and in area. It's going to make people sit up and think - it blows away any idea that you've got a distinction between the early group and the late group."
Burnt grains of goatgrass (Aegilops) were found at the site
Plant remains at the site suggest the humans burned six types of wood, three of which - olive tree, wild barley and wild grape - are edible. There is always the possibility the fires could have been

"THE ARIZONA WHITE SASQUATCH,S,OR BIGFOOT,S,..TAKEN BY BIGFOOT RESEARCHER,LYLE VANN,DIR OF THE ARIZONA BIGFOOT CENTER,BASED IN PAULDEN,AZ.(EST) 1984..
THIS ENCOUNTER OF THE TWO ALLEGED WHITE OR ALBINO BIGFOOT BEING,S HAPPENED TO VANN,MAY,12,2004.AT AROUND 1:30 PM.NICE CLEAR DAY. IN THE MT,S OF NORTHERN,AZ.THERE WERE OTHER,S IN THE AREA,ALSO, BUT!VANN,HAS FOUND THESE TWO MOST!INTERESTING IN HIS 31 YEARS OF RESEARCHING THE BIGFOOT,S.FOR IT,S A FIRST FOR MAN TO SEE,AND TO CAPTURE ON FILM,THE WHITE SASQUATCH,S.TO DATE.(C) 2004.BY LYLE VANN.

Lyle Vann
A.B.C. 2004

A-B-C
ARIZONA BIGFOOT CENTER
DIRECTOR: MR. LYLE VANN
P. O. BOX 412
PAULDEN, AZ 86334

natural. But the authors say a number of lines of evidence make this unlikely. "They've got wood and other material around and that's not all burnt, so if someone said: 'Maybe these are hotspots caused by some big general fire', that's a good answer," said Professor Gowlett. The fires also occur in lots of layers at the site, suggesting they are close together in time. Professor Gowlett said the body of evidence suggested wildfires were more widely spaced in geological sequences. Evidence for controlled use of fire has been proposed for burnt bones at the site of Swartkrans in South Africa at 1.5 million years and for patches of dirt at Chesowanja in Kenya at 1.4 million years. New data on the bones from Swartkrans using the technique of electron spin resonance appear to confirm those dates are correct. These results were presented at the 2004 Paleoanthropology Society Annual Meeting in Montreal, Canada, in March.

[Note: Ray Crowe believes that Peking Man, Homo erectus, are the models for Bigfoot. The art of fire making was lost when Early Modern Man hunted and killed the creatures, following smoke trails, or the clicking of rocks]

* cr mark bylsma; New findings throw limelight on Peking Man site BEIJING, June 23 (Xinhuanet) -- New geological findings and enhanced protection efforts at Peking Man site at Zhoukoudian on Beijing's outskirts have thrown again the limelight on the world heritage site since last year. Chinese archaeologists unearthed in 1929 the first complete skull of Peking Man at Zhoukoudian, about 50 km southwest of downtown Beijing. The Peking Man was proved to have lived approximately 500,000 years ago and the discovery stunned the world then. By 1937, five complete skulls of the Peking Man had been unearthed since excavation of the Peking Man site which was started in 1927. Except for three teeth of Peking Man stored in a lab in Sweden,the five skulls sunk into oblivion during World War II and no trace of them has ever been found.

Excavation of the Peking Man site was resumed after the founding of new China in 1949. To date, archaeologists in China have unearthed fossils belonging to 40 Peking men, over 100,000 items of stoneware, traces of fire use and large quantities of fossilized vertebrae. China put the site under state key protection in 1961 and, in 1987 it was included by the United Nations Educational, Scientificand Cultural Organization (UNESCO) on the World Heritage list.

*Article Published: Sunday, January 05, 2003. Legitimate scientific study of legend gains backing of top primate experts By Theo Stein, Denver Post Environment Writer

EDMONDS, Wash. - After enduring decades of ridicule, Bigfoot researchers are enjoying support from some of the world's most respected scientists in their efforts to prove the hulking creatures of legend are no myth. The persistence of reported sightings of Bigfoot-type creatures in North America and elsewhere has convinced leading researchers on primates - including Jane Goodall, made famous by her studies of chimpanzees in Tanzania - to call for something never seriously considered before: a legitimate scientific study to determine whether the greatest apes that ever lived persist in the world's moist mountainous regions. (GRAPHIC: Myth or mammal?)

Skeptics, who include those in the scientific mainstream, scoff at such ideas. They say reported Bigfoot encounters, tracks and other evidence are either hoaxes or mistakes, and that people who believe such nonsense are soft-headed. But dedicated amateurs and a smattering of professionals are trying to change that attitude. Using accepted scientific methods, they believe they can show at least some of the claimed evidence for Bigfoot - footprints, hair, voice recordings and a 400-pound block of plaster known as the Skookum Cast - are authentic traces of a rare giant primate.

Recently they have received support from a handful of the field's top experts. Daris Swindler, for example, is not the typical Bigfoot believer. When he retired in 1991 after more than 30 years at the University of Washington, Swindler was an acclaimed expert in the arcane study of fossilized primate teeth. His book, "An Atlas of Primate Gross Anatomy," went through several printings and was among the standard references in the field.

So it comes as a surprise to some of his peers that Swindler believes that the Skookum Cast, discovered by amateur Bigfoot researchers in 2000, is a genuine record of a hairy giant that sat down by a mudhole to eat some fruit. "Daris said that?" asked Russell Ciochon, a prominent paleoanthropologist and professor at the University of Iowa. "He's an important figure. But I still don't think Bigfoot exists in any form." Mythical giant apes lurk in the traditions of nearly every Native American linguistic group and in legends handed down through the ages from Europe and Asia. Each year, Bigfoot or similar creatures are reported by hundreds of hunters, hikers, motorists and others from central Asia to the central Rockies. But no one has provided the minimum proof required by science: a type specimen or remains that researchers can pick up, measure and argue over. Nevertheless, Goodall is intrigued. "People from very different backgrounds and different parts of the world have described very similar creatures behaving in similar ways and uttering some strikingly similar sounds," she said. "As far as I am concerned, the existence of hominids of this sort is a very real probability." George Schaller, director of science at the Wildlife Conservation Society, has spent 40 years studying rare animals in remote places, including pioneering studies of Central Africa's mountain gorilla, which Western scientists first discovered in 1903.

THE SCIENTISTS

JANE GOODALL

A world-famous primate researcher and author, she revealed, in studies of chimpanzees in Tanzania's Gombe National Park, surprising behaviors in humanity's closest living relative. Goodall has won numerous international awards for her contributions to conservation, anthropology and animal welfare. Currently affiliated with Cornell University, she serves as the National Geographic Society's explorer-in-residence.

GEORGE SCHALLER

International science director for the Wildlife Conservation Society. His pioneering field studies of mountain gorillas set the research standard later adopted by Goodall and gorilla researcher Dian Fosse. Schaller's 1963 book, "The Year of the Gorilla," debunked popular perceptions of the great ape and reintroduced "King Kong" as a shy, social vegetarian.

Schaller's studies of tigers, lions, snow leopards and pandas also advanced the knowledge of those endangered mammals.

In 1973, he won the National Book Award for "The Serengeti Lion: A Study of Predator-Prey Relations," and in 1980 was awarded the World Wildlife Fund Gold Medal for his contributions to the understanding and conservation of endangered species. During the past decade, he has focused on the little-known wildlife of Mongolia, Laos and the Tibetan Plateau.

RUSSELL MITTERMEIER

A trained primatologist, herpetologist and biological anthropologist, he has discovered five new species of monkey, including two last year. Mittermeier has conducted fieldwork in more than 20 countries around the tropical world, with special emphasis on Brazil, Guyana and Madagascar.

Since 1989, Mittermeier has served as president of Conservation International, which has become one of the most aggressive and effective conservation organizations in the world during the last decade. His publications include 10 books and more than 300 scientific papers and popular articles.

DARIS SWINDLER

Emeritus professor of anthropology at the University of Washington, Swindler is a leading expert on living and fossil primate teeth and one of the top primate anatomists in general. His book, "An Atlas of Primate Gross Anatomy," has become a standard reference in the field. A forensic anthropologist, Swindler worked on the Ted Bundy and Green River murder cases along with hundreds of others.

ESTEBAN SARMIENTO

A functional anatomist affiliated with the American Museum of Natural History, Sarmiento focuses on the skeletons of hominids. In 2001, he participated with George Schaller in a search for Congo's Bili ape, a possible species super-chimp reported by

natives but unknown to Western science. Sarmiento has also studied the Cross River gorilla, a critically endangered subspecies on the Nigeria-Cameroon border whose population is thought to be numbered in the hundreds. He has taught in the U.S., South Africa and Uganda. Schaller remains troubled by the fact no Bigfoot remains have been produced, nor have any samples of feces whose DNA can be chemically poked and prodded to unlock the identity of their maker. And he is mindful of hoaxing. But he, too, considers Bigfoot an open question. "There have been so many sightings over the years," he said. "Even if you throw out 95 percent of them, there ought to be some explanation for the rest. The same goes for some of these tracks. "I think a hard-eyed look is absolutely essential," he concludes. The most common evidence allegedly left by these animals are the footprints: big prints in remote locations, some deeply pressed in sand or gravel firm enough for a grown man to pass without leaving a trace. Some footprints, like those Ray Wallace's family claim he left near Bluff Creek, Calif., in the late 1950s, are hoaxed. Many more are too vague to be conclusive. But a few are so detailed and anatomically accurate that they baffle the experts. "Either the forgers are spending an awful lot of time on this, or there is reason to give this evidence another look," said primate researcher Esteban Sarmiento of the American Museum of Natural History. "I think a serious scientific inquiry is definitely warranted." Skeptics argue that large mammals, particularly great apes, simply aren't discovered anymore. Not true, says Russell Mittermeier, vice president of Conservation International, who has co-authored scientific papers describing five new primates. Since the 1990s there have been several spectacular finds, he said, including the antelope-like spindlehorn from Vietnam and a South American peccary thought to have gone extinct thousands of years ago. "I'm not one to pooh-pooh the potential that these large apes may exist," Mittermeier said. "I guess you could say I'm mildly skeptical but guardedly optimistic. Whoever does find it will have the discovery of the century."

Words of encouragement like these are music to Bigfoot researchers' ears. "My whole motivation has not been to convince anybody of the existence of the animal, but to convince them that there's a body of evidence begging for further consideration," said Idaho State University professor Jeff Meldrum, whose expertise in primate locomotion led him to become one of the few academics openly researching Bigfoot tracks. "This is immense," said author John Green, who has tracked Bigfoot reports for almost half a century from British Columbia and investigated some of the most famous sightings and track finds. "The possibility that there could be a real animal behind it just didn't occur to scientists 20 years ago." The flap over recent claims of Bigfoot hoaxing has not deterred Swindler. But the lack of a body plus the acknowledgment of at least some hoaxing adds up to too many questions for Ciochon. Like that of Swindler, Ciochon's work focuses on fossilized primate teeth, but of a very special species: Gigantopithecus blacki, the giant Asian ape of the Miocene epoch, which lasted from about 24 million to 5 million years ago. Most Bigfoot supporters advance Gigantopithecus, or Giganto for short, as the likely ancestor of Bigfoot, if not the hairy beast itself. It's a tantalizing but entirely unproven link that drives Ciochon to distraction. Ciochon thinks his study subject, which co-existed with the human ancestor Homo erectus for hundreds of thousands of years, may well be the archetypal inspiration for the "boogeyman" and other nocturnal monsters that populate the traditions of aboriginal cultures from Nepal to North America. But he vigorously rejects any suggestion that Giganto, which he thinks was a specialized, bamboo-eating vegetarian, could persist today. And he worries that the hotly contested grants that fund his work overseas may go elsewhere if the stigma of the shambling sasquatch of Native American lore attaches to his study subject. "My biggest problem is there's no evidence, other than conjectural hair and these footprints, some of which we know are faked," Ciochon said. "If someone finds a skeleton, I'll be there in a nanosecond," he said. "But that's what it's going to take to get me to change my mind." "There are so many problems," agrees Swindler, who six years ago told a USA Today reporter to count him among the skeptics. But as he examines the Skookum Cast on a rainy December afternoon in this Seattle suburb, Swindler points out landmarks in the lumpy landscape: a hairy forearm the size of a small ham, an enormous hairy thigh, an outsized buttock, and a striking impression he feels confident was made by the Achilles tendon and heel of a creature that is not supposed to exist. "Wha t ever made this was very well adapted to walking on two feet," he said. "It's not conclusive, but it's consistent with what you'd expect to see if a giant biped sat down in the mud." Swindler hopes that his assessment of the Skookum Cast, and a Discovery Channel documentary set to air Thursday, will generate support for further research. The key, Schaller said, will be finding dedicated amateurs willing to spend months or years in the field with cameras. "So far, no one has done that," he said. It was a group of dedicated amateurs that discovered the Skookum Cast. A team of volunteers from the Bigfoot Field Researchers Organization had spent two days in Washington state's Gifford Pinchot National Forest, putting out pheromone-basted plastic chips during the day and blasting sasquatch calls at night in an attempt to attract an animal. On the second night, researchers heard a powerful reply to their broadcasts, said Richard Noll, an aerospace toolmaker who has spent 30 years researching the mystery. The next morning, Noll was stunned to realize that an unusual impression of a large animal on the edge of a mudhole near their camp could have been left by their elusive quarry.

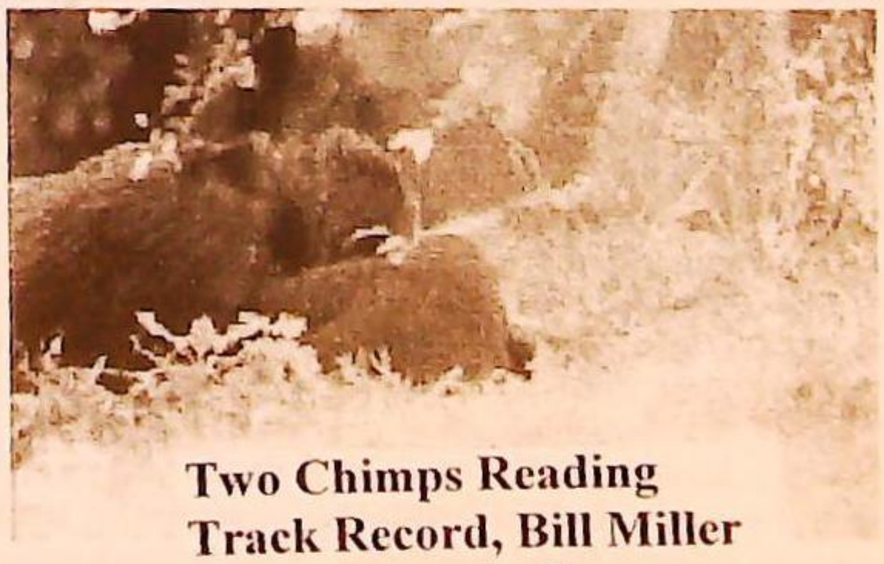
"An elk will gather their feet under them when they get up," he said. "But there are no elk hoofprints in the center of the cast."

Meldrum and Swindler concur there are only two logical explanations for the cast: Bigfoot and elk. And they have also ruled out elk. John Mionczynski, a wildlife researcher who has spent 30 summers studying bighorn herds in Wyoming's Wind River Mountains, has his own reasons for believing in Bigfoot.

On a moonlit summer night in 1972, he backhanded an animal he thought was a bear as it sniffed at a bacon stain in his tent, then watched as the silhouette of a giant, shaggy arm with a broad hand at the end swept toward his tent, collapsing it on him.

"That hand was three times as wide as mine and had an opposed thumb that stuck out as plain as day," Mionczynski said.

He spent the rest of the night huddled by the fire with a revolver in his hand as the creature lobbed pine cones at him from the dark woods behind his tent."That pretty much eliminated bears," Mionczynski said. Mionczynski is working on a contraption of tiny hooks and barbed wire that he intends to place near seasonal foods he thinks sasquatch depend on. He hopes the snare will let him get a DNA sample. North of Seattle, Noll is collaborating with Owen Caddy, a former Ugandan park ranger who studied chimpanzees in the mid-1990s. For the last 18 months, they've scoured certain sandbars on north Cascades river, documenting more than 30 suspected sasquatch footprints they believe were made by a mother and two young. They hope to identify the animals' food sources and travel corridors, then set out a picket line of infrared camera traps. "I feel the animal is out there, and I don't hedge on that," Caddy said. "I've found physical evidence myself, and I'm confident in my analysis of it. "Something is making these tracks, and it's not people."



Two Chimps Reading
Track Record, Bill Miller
Photo, St Louis Zoo